

Children and Young People's Plan 2014-2018

Background Paper

January 2013

Acknowledgements

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This discussion paper was compiled by the Hobsons Bay Strategy and Advocacy Department. For further information contact the Hobsons Bay City Council on 9932 1000 www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

The Council acknowledges the people of Yalukit Wilum of the Boon Wurrung Country that makes up the Greater Kulin Nation as the traditional owners of these municipal lands.

The Council acknowledges the legal responsibility to comply with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 and the Equal Opportunity Act 2010. The Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities is designed to protect the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens. The Charter gives legal protection to 20 fundamental human rights under four key values that include freedom, respect, equality and dignity.

Executive Summary

Local Governments play varying roles in early years and youth services across Australia. The role generally includes direct service provision, local planning and research, provision of infrastructure, lobbying and advocacy for residents' needs, facilitation and coordination at the local level.

What happens to the child in the early years, including from conception to birth, is critical for the child's developmental trajectory and overall life course.

Equally important is the transition for young people into adulthood. Youth is a period of rapid emotional, physical and intellectual transition, where young people progress from being dependent children to independent adults. This is often a period where young people face a range of life events and make decisions that can impact on their immediate and longer term health and wellbeing.¹

Research indicates that adolescence is the peak period for the onset of mental health disorders. Local data indicates that approximately 13 per cent of all residents sought help for a mental health issue in the past 12 months, higher than the state average of 11.4 per cent and the North West Metropolitan Region (NWMR) at 11.2 per cent.

While everyone wants the best for their children, not all have the same resources to help their children grow up healthy. Parents' education and income levels can create or limit opportunities to provide their children with nurturing and stimulating environments and to

adopt healthy behaviours for their children to model.²

Traditionally, Hobsons Bay City Council has implemented both a Children's Plan (Municipal Early Year's Plan) and a Youth Strategic Plan. The most recent Children's Plan 2009-2013 articulated the Council's role in service and infrastructure provision, planning, advocacy and community development for children under eight years of age.

The most current Youth Strategic Plan 2009-2013 provided a vision to guide the Council's work towards ensuring young people in Hobsons Bay are valued, supported and championed to achieve their full potential.

It is evident upon review of the Council's Children's Plans and Youth Strategic Plans that progress has been made towards acknowledging, empowering and providing quality services for children and young people, and where appropriate, their families.

However, evaluation has also revealed that some of the issues being faced by children and young people are broader than those that can be dealt with within age specific plans such as the one's currently in place.

The Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017 (CHWP) sets out the broad vision about what both the community and Council want to see for Hobsons Bay.

The vision is:

Valuing the wellbeing of our people and our place, now and into the future:

¹ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2007) Young Australians: Their health and wellbeing

² Wood (2008) Early Childhood Experiences: Laying the Foundation for Health Across a Lifetime

A safe, clean, accessible and connected municipality, which values diversity, protects its heritage and environment, fosters a strong sense of community and provides opportunities to achieve the best possible health and wellbeing.

A place that people are proud to call home.

This plan together with the Council Plan 2013-2017 and the Municipal Strategic Statement forms the Council's Strategic Planning Framework.

Through the CHWP, the Council aims to tackle some of the broader social determinants of health that impact children and young people including education, employment, health services, and housing. The plan will also provide a link for other service age specific strategies and plans.

Evaluation of the Children's Plan and the Youth Plan highlighted the commonalities between the two and the existence of a policy and service gap for children aged eight to 11 years.

As such, it is proposed that a future combined Children's and Youth Plan highlight those commonalities however also tackle specific issues via clearly articulating four cohorts and their identified needs. These cohorts should include:

- Early years (0- 4 years)
- Primary School (5 -11 years)
- Adolescence (12-18 years)
- Young Adults (19-25 years)

Critical to the success of a combined plan will be to ensure the plan emphasises the unique and differing strategies involved in working with these different cohorts and their specific issues.

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Introduction

This document presents an analysis of current demographics and policies relating to children and young people, as well as a summary of the outcomes of the community consultation processes undertaken in 2013. Evaluation of the Council's Children's Plan (Municipal Early Years Plan) 2009-2013 and the Council's Youth Strategic Plan 2009-2013 is also presented along with recommendations for a future combined Children and Youth Plan for the Council.

Local Governments play varying roles in early years and youth services across Australia. The role generally includes direct service provision, local planning and research, provision of infrastructure, lobbying and advocacy for residents' needs, and facilitation and coordination at the local level.

The specific programs that are either coordinated or funded and administered by local governments vary. However, programs often include long day care, family day care, occasional care, after school-hours programs, Maternal and Child Health, intervention programs, supports to families, playgroups, youth services, counseling, skill development, youth participation and neighbourhood and community centres.

Local governments have strong partnerships with state and federal governments in the planning, establishment, implementation and evaluation of early years and youth services, programs and policy objectives. Local government can influence policy and service delivery at the local level in relation to the early years through to young people, primarily through Council Plans and Children/Youth specific Plans.

In Hobsons Bay, both the Council's Children's Plan and the Youth Strategic Plans articulate the Council's vision for children, young people and their families. The plans also set out the

Council's role in service and infrastructure provision, planning, advocacy and community development.

Why Are The Early Years Important?

Children's healthy development depends upon growing up in an environment which has an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding.

A person's social and economic circumstances may affect their health throughout their life. It is now well documented that these factors can have the most detrimental effect in our early life (prenatal to age 11), setting the foundations for our adult health.³

What happens to the child in the early years, including from conception to birth, is critical for the child's developmental trajectory and overall life course. As such, the early years are deemed a social determinant of future adult health.

While everyone wants the best for their children, not all parents have the same resources available to help their children. Parents' education and income levels can create or limit opportunities to provide their children with nurturing and stimulating

³ World Health Organisation (2003) *The Solid Facts: Social Determinants of Health*

environments and to adopt healthy behaviours for their children to model.⁴

Research tells us that a child's experiences within the family and community have lasting effects on whether the child will make friends, enjoy school, form stable relationships and make healthy lifestyle choices. In particular, early childhood experiences determine an individual's level of brain stimulation and brain development.⁵This is said to contribute to academic ability and performance which set the parameters for what individuals will grow up to be and do as adults.

On the other hand, children who have a poor start in life are more likely to develop learning, behavioral or emotional problems and experience poor health outcomes, resulting in a shorter life space, social inequalities and intergenerational disadvantage.

Why Is Adolescence Important?

There is growing evidence that effective nurturing throughout childhood, and the psychosocial transitions to young adulthood, have significant effects on health and wellbeing throughout the life course.⁶

Equally important is the transition for young people into adulthood. Youth is a period of rapid emotional, physical and intellectual transition, where young people progress from being dependent children to independent adults. This is often a period where young people face a range of life events and make decisions that can impact on their immediate and long term health and wellbeing.⁷

Research indicates that adolescence is the peak period for the onset of mental health disorders. Local data indicates that approximately 13 per cent of all residents sought help for a mental health issue in the past 12 months, higher than the state average of 11.4 per cent and the NWMR at 11.2 per cent.⁸

Further, young people are particularly vulnerable to the stressors of modern society because they are in transition from childhood to adulthood. Young people are especially vulnerable to homelessness, placing them at risk of physical and mental health problems. High risk taking behaviour can also increase the risk of mental health problems such as alcohol, tobacco and drug misuse, and physical health problems such as injury.⁹

Those who have poor experiences in adolescence are at greater risk of poor emotional and physical health into adult life leading to disadvantage and shorter life spans.

Impacts on Children and Young People's Futures

Children and young people's development is highly susceptible to the range of influential factors associated with their surrounding environment. Ensuring children and young people are provided with a clean, safe and healthy environment provides the best possible opportunity for them to remain free from illness.

In most cases, children and young adolescents are not in control of their environment and are dependent on adults to safeguard the environment that they will inherit for the future from hazards such as global warming, loss of bio-diversity, air and water pollution.

⁴ Wood (2008) Early Childhood Experiences: Laying the Foundation for Health Across a Lifetime

⁵ Najman et,al (2004) The Generational Transmission of Socioeconomic Inequalities in Child Cognitive Development and Emotional Health

⁶ Queensland Health. (2001) Social determinants of health: The role of public health services. Brisbane: Queensland Health; 2001.

⁷ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2007) Young Australians: Their health and wellbeing

⁸ Department of Health (2012a), Mental Health and Drugs Region Division, Community-based Public Mental Health Service Client Residential Profiles NWMR, 2010-2011

⁹ Queensland Health. Social determinants of health: The role of public health services. Brisbane: Queensland Health; 2001.

It is the responsibility of everyone who lives, works and visits Hobsons Bay to ensure the protection of the environment for future generations.

Demographic Analysis

What Do We Know About Children in Hobsons Bay?

Our health is determined by much more than genes and lifestyle decisions. It is determined by the circumstances in which we are born, grow, live, work and age. The early childhood period of life (prenatal to age 11) is the most important development phase throughout the lifespan, setting the foundations for adult health.

Population Structure

The usual resident population of Hobsons Bay according to the 2011 Census is 87,348. There are 5,748 0 to four year olds and 6,590 5 to 11 year olds representing 6.9 per cent and 7.9 per cent of the population respectively. This is similar to the percentage of children in these age groups in the Melbourne Statistical Division (MSD).

Table 1: Age ranges 0-11 years

Age	Number	%
0 to 4	5,748	6.9
5 to 11	6,590	7.9
Total	12,338	14.8

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), 2012

Between 2006 to 2011, there has been an increase of 401 babies and pre-schoolers whereas there has been a decline of 749 primary schoolers.

Population Forecast

Just over one in every five children currently live in Altona Meadows which also has the largest share of the municipality's total population. Fourteen per cent of children live in Altona North, 12 per cent live in

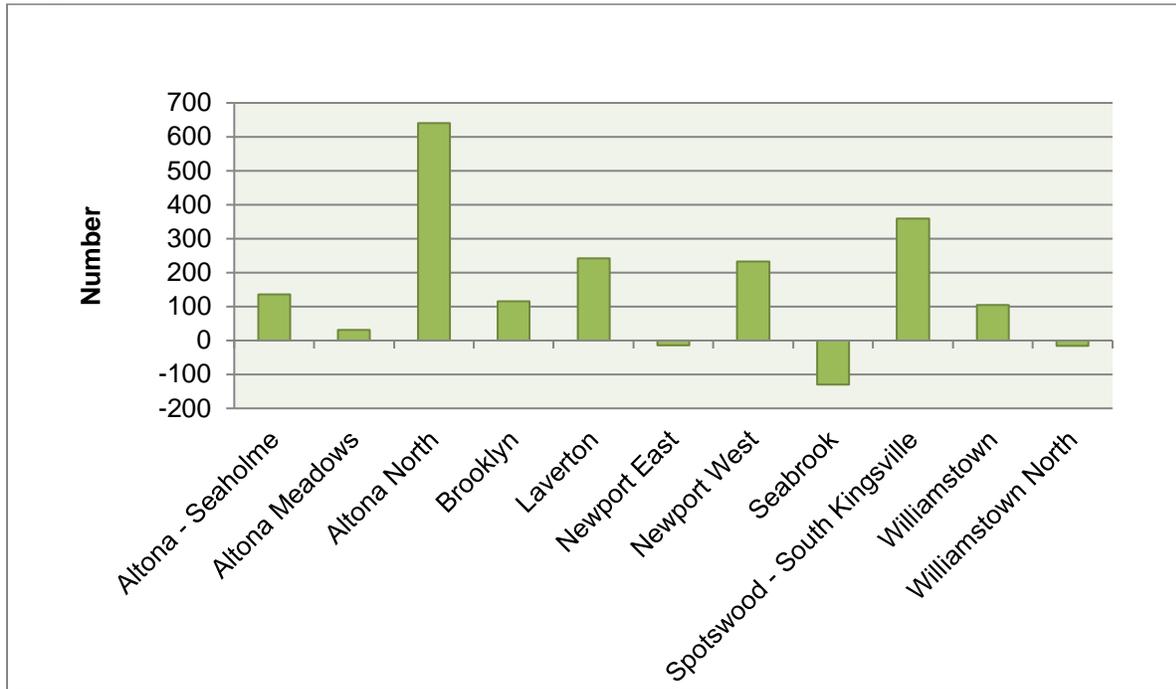
Altona-Seaholme and 10 per cent live in Newport West.¹⁰

Over the coming decade, an increasing number of children will be living in Altona North and Spotswood-South Kingsville, an additional 640 and 359 children respectively. The number of children living in Seabrook is expected to fall by 120 as families in this neighbourhood mature. A similar trend is also expected in Altona Meadows.¹¹

¹⁰ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2012) Census of Population and Housing 2011, Commonwealth of Australia

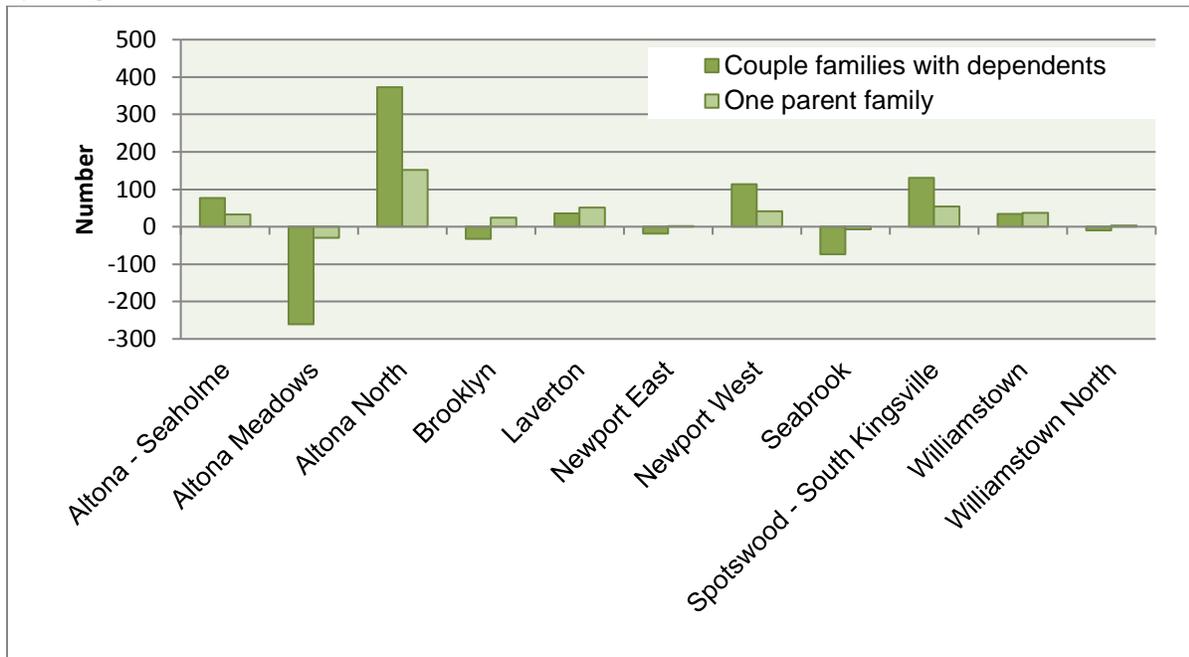
¹¹ Forecast'id (2012) Hobsons Bay – Population Forecasts <http://forecast2.id.com.au/Default.aspx?id=112&pg=5000>

Figure 1: Forecast Change of 0 to 11 Year Olds Between 2011 and 2021 by Neighbourhood Area



Source: ABS, 2012

Figure 2: Difference in Concentration of Families With Dependent Children 2006 to 2021 by Neighbourhood Area



Source: ABS, 2012

Family structure

As of 2011, 32 per cent of households in Hobsons Bay are made up of couples with children compared with 34 per cent of households in Greater Melbourne. There has been no significant change in households from 2006 in the broader Hobsons Bay.

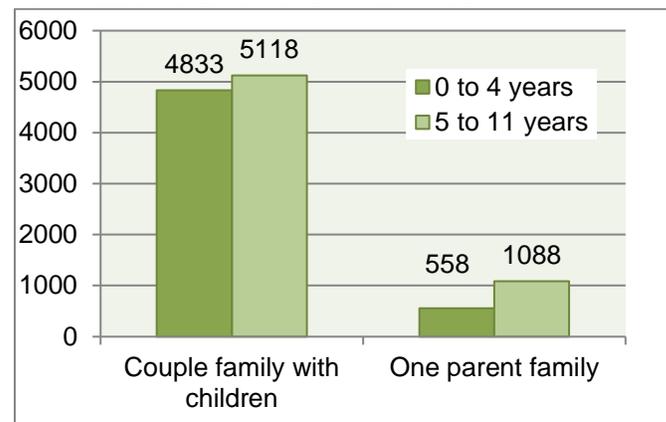
Table 2: Hobsons Bay Household Types 2011

Households by type	Number	%
Couples with children	10,303	31.7
Couples without children	7,631	23.5
One parent families	3,597	11.1
Other families	475	1.5
Group household	1,237	3.8
Lone person	7,901	24.3
Other not classifiable household	1,111	3.4
Visitor only households	271	0.8
Total households	32,526	100.0

Source: ABS, 2012

Further, there were 4,833 0 to four year olds living within a two parent family compared to 558 0 to four year olds living within one parent families.

Figure 3: Children living with Couple Families and One Parent Families



Source: ABS, 2012

The amount of five to 11 year olds living with one parent families significantly increases to 1088 children.

Newly Arrived Children

According to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) there were 376 newly arrived children from 1 January 2009 to 1 January 2012.

Table 3: Newly Arrived Children in Hobsons Bay

Age	Number	%
0 to 5	250	66
6 to 11	126	34
Total	376	100%

Source: Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) Reporting Facility 2012

Of the 376 newly arrived children, 64 came via the humanitarian migration stream, 61 arrived via the family migration stream and there were a further 251 children whose

parents came via the skilled migration stream.¹²

Aboriginal Children

According to the 2011 Census, there are 89 children in Hobsons Bay who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. This is similar to 2006 where 88 children identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.¹³

Table 4: Aboriginal Children in Hobsons Bay

Age	Number	%
0 to 4	37	42
5 to 11	52	58
Total	89	100%

Source: ABS, 2012

Children with a Disability

An estimated 588 children in Hobsons Bay aged 0-12 have a disability, representing approximately 6 per cent of children in this age group.¹⁴ As of the 2011 census, 227 children had a need for assistance.

Birth Rate

The number of birth notifications in Hobsons Bay rose 11 per cent in the years from 2001 to 2011 from 1,233 to 1,374. This is lower than the Metropolitan average of 23 per

cent and the Victorian average of 18 per cent.

Table 5: Birth Rates from 2001/2 to 2010/11

Year	Hobsons Bay	Victorian Average	Metropolitan Average
2001/2	1,233	785	1,461
2002/3	1,213	775	1,461
2003/4	1,223	800	1,523
2004/5	1,207	805	1,535
2005/6	1,253	842	1,608
2006/7	1,331	888	1,699
2007/8	1,340	902	1,732
2008/9	1,357	909	1,752
2009/10	1,404	935	1,818
2010/11	1,374	926	1,798
Per cent change: 9 years			
	11	23	18

Source: ABS, 2012

Maternal and Child Health

The attendance at the four week Maternal and Child Health visits has not significantly changed from 93 per cent in 2001 to 93.4 per cent in 2012.

The number of babies returning for their 12 month visits however was much lower and has decreased slightly, from 74 per cent in 2001 to 70 per cent in 2012.

The average increase for Metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria was 10 per cent and 11 per cent respectively, which is higher than the slight decrease in 12 month visits for Hobsons Bay.

Attendance at two year visits rose from 50 per cent in 2001 to 54.7 per cent in 2012, and this increase was significantly lower than for Victoria (24%) and the Metropolitan average (26%).

¹² Australian Government Department of Immigration and Citizenship, 1 January 2009 to 1 January 2012. DIAC Settlement Reporting Facility.

¹³ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2012) Census of Population and Housing 2011, Commonwealth of Australia

¹⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2003 & 2010) The Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers Catalogue No. 4430.0. ABS, Canberra.

By the time the child reaches 3.5 years there is a significant decrease in attendance to 49.1 per cent as indicated in the table below.

Table 6: Participation Rates in MCH by Suburb and Stage July 2011 to June 2012

Key Ages and Stages	Williamstown %	Newport %	South Kingsville %	Altona North %	Altona David St %	Altona Meadows Russell Crt %	Altona Meadows Powlett St %	Laverton %	Altona Meadows Cooraminta %	Seabrook %	Total Hobsons Bay %
Home Consult	101.0	97.8	97.3	109.8	102.3	113.9	82.9	93.2	103.8	96.3	100.2
2 weeks	94.9	92.8	88.3	98.8	97.7	98.3	87.8	101.4	81.0	122.2	91.5
4 weeks	94.4	96.0	85.6	94.5	98.5	93.9	85.4	102.7	83.5	133.3	93.4
8 weeks	89.7	93.9	84.7	87.2	96.2	89.6	85.4	97.3	89.9	138.9	92.1
4 months	93.3	98.5	74.8	84.1	94.0	96.5	76.8	91.8	84.8	151.9	86.5
8 months	87.4	86.1	66.4	68.5	84.0	92.5	76.3	71.5	84.1	104.2	73.9
12 months	88.4	85.0	71.6	60.6	76.7	86.3	70.0	78.8	72.6	115.5	69.8
18 months	85.7	83.8	67.6	50.7	66.7	69.4	73.9	51.4	59.0	82.3	59.2
2 years	68.0	73.1	62.2	52.2	62.0	71.2	62.0	50.6	71.8	74.7	54.7
3.5 years	63.5	68.5	55.7	46.7	66.0	68.6	64.6	73.4	54.2	52.0	49.1
Average Participation Rate	86.6	87.5	75.4	75.3	84.4	88.0	76.5	81.2	78.4	107.1	

Source: Hobsons Bay City Council Maternal and Child Health Statistics, 2012

Breastfeeding

In Hobsons Bay, 38 per cent of six month olds were fully breastfed at six months (higher than the Western Metropolitan rate

of 33 per cent and Victorian rate of 37 per cent).

The proportion of babies full or partially breastfeeding at six months has risen 9 per

cent between 2001 and 2011 for Hobsons Bay in line with the metropolitan average (10%).¹⁵

Immunisation Rates

Immunisation against infectious disease has been shown to reduce deaths and illness from a range of childhood disease. It also offers protection for individual children and reduces the rate at which these diseases circulate within the broader community. Further, vaccine coverage needs to exceed 90 per cent to achieve and maintain the level of community immunity necessary to interrupt the ongoing transmission of vaccine preventable diseases.¹⁶

Immunisation rates tend to decline as children reach six years old. In Hobsons Bay, this is also the trend.

In 2008-2009, the percentage of children fully immunised at 12-15 months in Hobsons Bay (92.6%) greater than the percentage fully immunised in the Western Metropolitan region (92.1%) and greater than the percentage fully immunised across Victoria (91.9%).

However, the percentage of children fully immunised at 24-27 months in Hobsons Bay (93.1 %) was marginally less than the percentage fully immunised in the Western Metropolitan region (93.4%) and less than the percentage fully immunised across Victoria (93.7%).

Further in 2008-2009, the percentage of children fully immunized at 60 to <63 months in Hobsons Bay (82.2%) was less than the percentage fully immunised in the Western Metropolitan region (83.8%) and less than the percentage fully immunised across Victoria (84.1%).

¹⁵ Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, Western Region Annual Report 2010/2011, www.education.vic.gov.au/ecsmanagement/matchildhealth/annualdata/archive.htm#H2N1000B

¹⁶ Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (2010) Early childhood community profile, City of Hobsons Bay

Table 7: Immunisation rates in Hobsons Bay 2008-2009

	12-15 months			24-27 months			60<63 months		
	No. of children	Fully Immunised		No. of children	Fully Immunised		No. of children	Fully Immunised	
		Number	%		Number	%		Number	%
Hobsons Bay	1,294	1,198	92.6	1,243	1,157	93.1	1,082	889	82.2
Western Metropolitan Region	11,638	10,178	92.1	10,934	10,215	93.4	9,802	8,217	83.8
Victoria	70,569	64,850	91.9	69,989	65,560	93.7	65,477	55,078	84.1

Source: Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD, 2010)

Asthma Rates

Asthma is the most common long term condition among children and the leading cause of disease burden in Victorian children. Asthma can have considerable impact on the physical, social and emotional life of children and can interfere with school requiring urgent medical care in some cases.¹⁷

In Hobsons Bay 15 per cent of prep children were reported to have asthma (slightly higher than the Victorian Western Metropolitan Region rates of 14 per cent).

Approximately 28 per cent of children aged 0 to 12 in the Western Metropolitan are likely to be exposed to second hand tobacco smoke in their homes.¹⁸

Oral Health

Oral health status data provided by the Department of Health shows children between the ages of 0 and five years within Hobsons Bay have a rate of 2.8 for

Decayed Missing Filled Teeth (DMFT) which is the second highest rate for the western region. Children in Hobsons Bay aged 9-11 years have the highest rate of DMFT in the western region alongside Maribyrnong with a rate of 1.06.¹⁹

Table 8: DMFT Rates 0-12 years

Local Government Area	0-5 years	6 years	7-8 years	9-11 years	12 years
Brimbank	2.92	3.72	3.5	0.96	1.53
Hobsons Bay	2.8	2.73	3.03	1.06	1.49
Maribyrnong	1.91	3.22	2.97	1.06	1.42
Melton	1.87	2.07	2.12	0.69	1.66
Wyndham	1.44	2.79	2.63	0.87	1.36

Source: DEECD, 2010

Australian Early Childhood Developmental Index (AEDI)

The AEDI is a population measure of children's development as they enter school. Data was collected through a survey completed by a teacher at the child's school in their first year of full-time school. The average age of these children is five years and seven months. The checklist contained

¹⁷ Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (2010) Early childhood community profile, City of Hobsons Bay

¹⁸ Najman et,al (2004) The Generational Transmission of Socioeconomic Inequalities in Child Cognitive Development and Emotional Health

¹⁹ Department of Health Victoria, North and West Metropolitan Region (2011) Integrated Oral Health Plan.

over 100 questions about the development of the child across five developmental domains:

Physical health and wellbeing - is defined as a child who is healthy, independent and ready each day.

- **Social competence** - refers to how a child plays, gets along with others and shares, is self confident.
- **Emotional maturity** - is defined as the child's ability to concentrate, help

others, and be patient, not aggressive or angry.

- **Language and cognitive skills** (school-based) - refers to a child who is interested in reading and writing, can count and recognise numbers and shapes.
- **Communication skills and general knowledge** - is defined as a child who can tell a story, communicate with adults and children and articulate themselves.

Table 9: Percentage of Hobsons Bay Children Who Are Vulnerable on Each AEDI Domain

Domain	% of children developmentally vulnerable 2009 ²⁰	% of children developmentally vulnerable 2012	Victorian % 2012
Physical health and wellbeing	8.8	8.8	7.8
Social competence	9.8	9.2	8.1
Emotional maturity	8.4	6.7	7.2
Language and cognitive skills (school-based)	6.4	5.3	6.1
Communication skills and general knowledge	10.5	8.5	8.0

Source: <http://maps.aedi.org.au/profiles/vic/23110> accessed 27 July 2012.

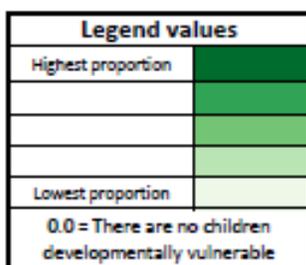
²⁰ Children who score in the lowest 10 per cent when compared to the AEDI population are classified as 'developmentally vulnerable'. These children demonstrate much lower than average developmental competencies as measured in that domain.

Results for children within Hobsons Bay show that the overall percentage of children who are developmentally vulnerable in one or more domains has decreased from 21.8 per cent in 2009 to 18.9 per cent in 2012.

There has also been a decrease in children who are developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains from 11.7 per cent in 2009 to 10 per cent in 2012.

Table 10: Proportion of children developmentally vulnerable within Hobsons Bay by local area

Hobsons Bay community	Number of children surveyed	Proportion of children developmentally vulnerable (%)							SEIFA Index (Score) ^	
		Physical health and wellbeing †	Social competence	Emotional maturity	Language and cognitive skills (school-based)	Communication skills and general knowledge	Vulnerable on one or more domains of the AEDI	Vulnerable on two or more domains of the AEDI		
Australia	289,973	9.3	9.3	7.6	6.8	9.0	22.0	10.8	N/A	
Victoria	67,931	7.8	8.1	7.2	6.1	8.0	19.5	9.5	N/A	
Hobsons Bay Community	1,051	8.8	9.2	6.7	5.3	8.5	18.9	10.0	N/A	
Local Community										
Altona Meadows #	198	13.5	17.3	7.2	6.5	10.3	27.0	14.2	981.2	
Altona North/Brooklyn	156	16.4	15.8	13.0	8.8	17.1	31.5	19.2	912.5	
Altona/Seaholme	117	2.6	2.6	6.0	5.2	2.6	11.2	4.3	1019.0	
Laverton	86	17.5	20.0	6.3	12.5	26.3	39.2	22.5	915.9	
Newport #	180	5.9	3.5	4.7	4.1	2.9	12.9	5.9	1060.9	
Seabrook	79	2.7	2.7	2.7	4.0	5.4	8.1	2.7	1030.8	
Spotswood/South Kingsville	50	4.1	2.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	4.2	2.0	1023.5	
Williamstown/Williamstown North	185	4.1	4.7	7.0	1.2	3.5	9.9	5.3	1062.5	



Source: www.aedi.org.au

Kindergarten participation

Kindergarten participation rates in Hobsons Bay have improved over the past five years and now stand at 93 per cent, higher than the Western Metro Region (92%) and Victoria (92.7%).

Parental Evaluation of Developmental Status

The Parental Evaluation of Developmental Status (PEDS) provides a report on child development undertaken as part of the first year of formal schooling, meaning any developmental and behavioural problems in children can be identified early and dealt with accordingly.

In Hobsons Bay, 7.3 per cent of prep children showed two or more concerns which placed them in a high risk category. A further 15.8 per cent showed one concern which put them in moderate risk requiring screening and monitoring. Both these rates are lower than the Western Metropolitan Region rates.

of 84 reports between 2004-2008 from 208 reports to 292.

Child Abuse Substantiation

Substantiations are those finalised investigations of child maltreatment that result in a conclusion that a child has been or is likely to be abused, neglected or otherwise suffer harm.²¹

Childhood trauma, abuse and neglect are one of the most significant factors impacting on child health, wellbeing and development.²² Abuse in childhood can result in a wide range of long and short term consequences. In addition to physical harm, abused children can develop ongoing mental health and behavioral issues.²³

As indicated in the following table child protection substantiations for children aged 0 to eight years is a significantly lower rate per 1000 children for Hobsons Bay (5.2%) than the Victorian rate per 100 children (7.0%).

However, since 2004-2005 to 2008-2009 there has been a slight increase from 4.4 per 1000 children to 5.2 per 1000 children for Hobsons Bay. This translates to an increase

²¹ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2009, *Child protection Australia 2007-08*, Child welfare series no. 45 cat. no. CWS 33, AIHW, Canberra.

²² Department of Human Services 2001, *The 'Best Start' Indicators Project*, Victorian Department of Human Services, Melbourne.

²³ Department of Human Services 2005, *Draft Indicators of Victorian Children's Health and Wellbeing*, Victorian Department of Human Services, Melbourne (unpublished).

Table 11: Number and Rate of Child Protection Substantiations for Children Aged 0 to 8 years in Hobsons Bay 2004 to 2005 to 2008 to 2009.

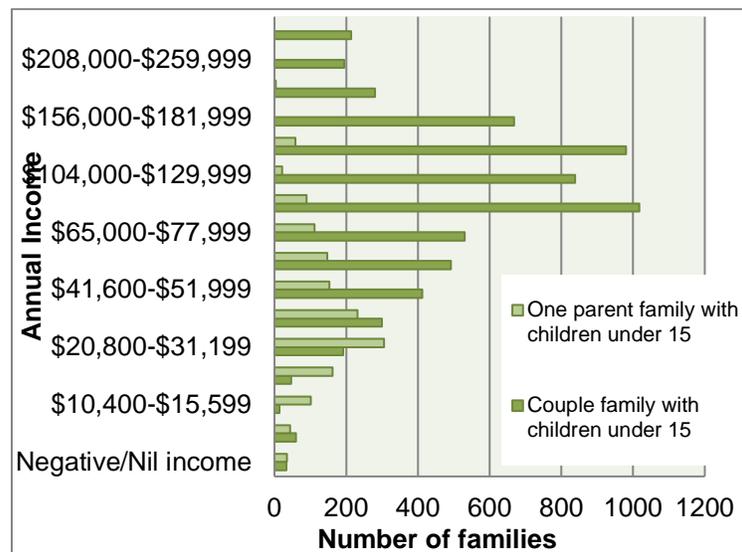
	Hobsons Bay			Victoria		
	Number of Substantiations	ERP of children aged 0 to 8 year at 30 June (a)	Rate per 1000 children aged 0 to 8 years	Number of Substantiations	ERP of children aged 0 to 8 year at 30 June (a)	Rate per 1000 children aged 0 to 8 years
2004-2005	44	9,956	4.4	4,266	564,120	7.6
2005-2006	61	9,810	6.2	4,368	566,750	7.7
2006-2007	37	9,763	3.8	4,179	572,710	7.3
2007-2008	42	9,884	4.2	4,282	582,221	7.4
2008-2009	52	9,994	5.2	4,177	595,545	7.0

(a) Due to the time lag in the production of the Estimated Resident Population at an LGA level the population base used is the estimated resident population for the first year in the financial year period. For example the 2007-2008 rate is (Substantiations 2007-2008)/ (ERP at 30June 2007) x 1000. 2007 ERP is revised and 2008 is preliminary.
Source: DEECD, 2010

Income

The incomes of couple and one parent families with children vary dramatically. As the graph below illustrates, there is a larger percentage of couple families with incomes towards the higher end of the scale and more one parent families who have an annual income of \$20,800 or less.

Figure 4: Income of Couple Families and One Parent Families



Nutrition and Physical Activity

In Australia, as in many Western countries, people often struggle to meet the recommended daily intake of fruits and vegetables. In Victoria, most young children eat their daily serve of fruit, but only minorities of children eat the minimum recommended daily services of vegetables.²⁴

Although figures are not available at a local government area, in the Western Metropolitan region, 33.7 per cent of children aged four to 12 years were reported to eat the minimum recommended serves of both fruit and vegetables each day in 2009. This is lower than the proportion reported in Metropolitan Victoria (34.8%) but this difference was not significant.²⁵

Participation in physical activity is thought to influence many aspects of a child's development. Physical activity plays an important role in promoting healthy growth, weight control and cardiovascular fitness. It also provides children with opportunities to interact with others and to improve self esteem.²⁶

Children are probably at their most active in their early school years. However, in the Victorian Child Health and Wellbeing Survey, there was evidence of a reduction in physical activity and an increase in the use of electronic media as children age.²⁷

In the Western Metropolitan region, 55.6 per cent of children aged five to 12 years were reported to do the recommended amount of physical activity every day in 2009. This was

significantly lower than the proportion reported in 2006 (74.1%).²⁸

Further in the Western Metropolitan region, 22.1 per cent of children aged five to 12 years were reported to use electronic media for more than two hours every day in 2009. This was higher than the proportion reported in 2006 (18.4%), but this difference was not significant.²⁹

Socio – Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) – Index of Disadvantage

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) are produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and is based on factors such as low income, low educational attainment, high unemployment, jobs in relatively unskilled occupations and variables that reflect disadvantage. The darker the red on the map in the figure below, the higher the incidence of disadvantage. The palest grey areas have the least disadvantage.

In 2011, the SEIFA Index for Hobsons Bay was 1,001.7. This put Hobsons Bay at ninth most disadvantaged municipality in metropolitan Melbourne.

Vulnerable children tend to live within these disadvantaged areas (Laverton, Altona North and Altona Meadows) indicating that their parents might have lower educational attainment or income levels. One parent families also often have lower income levels.

²⁴ Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (2010) Early childhood community profile, City of Hobsons Bay
²⁵ Ibid

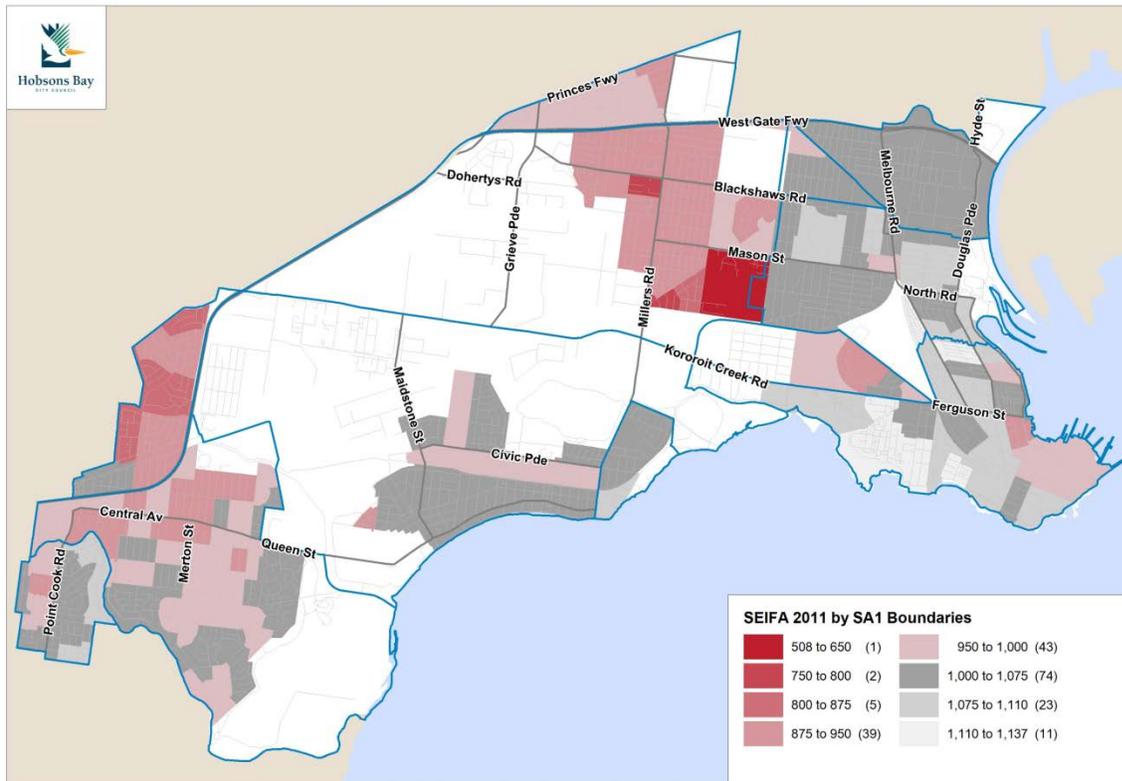
²⁶ Department of Health and Ageing (2004) Australia's Physical Activity Recommendations for 5-12 year olds, Canberra

²⁷ Department of Human Services 2007, 2006 Victorian Child Health and Wellbeing Survey: Technical Report, Victorian Department of Human Services, Melbourne

²⁸ Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (2010) Early childhood community profile, City of Hobsons Bay

²⁹ Ibid

Figure 5: SEIFA According To Neighbourhood Area 2011



Source: ABS, 2006

Intergenerational Equity in Relation to the Environment

Today's children live in an environment that is vastly different from that of previous generations. In the last years alone, new chemicals have been added to our ecosystem, and their impact on health is in most cases unknown. Equally, development continues to intrude and transform previous areas of the natural environment, placing

additional stresses on finite natural resources.

In most cases, children are not in control of their environment and are dependent on adults to ensure protection of their surroundings and guard them from potential exposure to hazardous environmental conditions or harmful substances.

It is the responsibility of everyone who lives and works in Hobsons Bay to ensure the protection of the environment for future generations.

What Are the Major Issues in Relation to Early Years in Hobsons Bay?

Providing our children with the best possible start to life, particularly during their early years is of major importance in the growth and development of happy, healthy and socially connected individuals. Although the Council has made progress in addressing issues for children across the municipality in its last two Early Years Plans, there is still work and advocacy to do around the following:

Income

- Families with children are over-represented amongst households at a national level with low economic resources and high levels of financial stress.
- There is an increase in children living with in one parent families as the children transition from babies to pre-schoolers to primary schoolers.

Maternal and Child Health Key Ages and Stages consultations

- Poor rates of consultations for children at the key ages of two and 3.5 year across the municipality but in particular for those families in Altona North.

Immunisation Rates

- Lower rate at 60<63 months for Hobsons Bay children who are fully immunized than the Western Metropolitan region and Victoria.

Australian Early Childhood Developmental Index

- Results for children within Hobsons Bay show that the overall percentage of children who are developmentally vulnerable in one or more domains has decreased from 21.8 per cent in 2009 to 18.9 per cent in 2012. There has also been a decrease in children who are developmentally vulnerable on two or more domains from 11.7 per cent in 2009 to 10 per cent in 2012.
- A particular focus is required for Laverton, Altona North/Brooklyn and to a lesser degree Altona Meadows.

Kindergarten participation

- The participation rate for children in Hobsons Bay was lower than that in Victoria for at least three of the five years between 2005 and 2009.

Physical activity, nutrition and oral health

- A decrease in the amount children aged five to 12 years reported to do the recommended amount of physical activity every day in 2009.
- An increase of children aged five to 12 years who reported to use electronic media for more than two hours every day in 2009.
- Slightly lower than Metropolitan Victoria of children aged four to 12 years who were reported to eat the minimum recommended serves of both fruit and vegetables each day in 2009.
- Children in the nine to 11 years of age range have a higher rate of DMFT than all other local governmental areas in the catchment apart from Maribyrnong.

Equity

According to SEIFA (2011) and demographic analysis of this paper vulnerable children tend to live within disadvantaged areas (Laverton, Altona North and Altona Meadows) indicating that their parents might have lower educational attainment or income levels. One parent families also often have lower income levels.

These children, for a variety of reasons, are likely to be more developmentally vulnerable, have decreased intake of fresh fruit and vegetables in their diet, more likely to not undertake required amounts of physical activity and more likely not to participate in MCH or early years education such as kindergarten.

What Do We Know About Young People in Hobsons Bay?

Our health is determined by much more than genes and lifestyle decisions. It is determined by the circumstances in which we are born, grow, live, work and age. The health of young people (aged 12 to 25 years) is the result of a complex interplay of genetic, social, environmental, economic and cultural factors. The impact of these factors in adolescence affects health and wellbeing outcomes in adult life.

Population Structure

The usual resident population of Hobsons Bay according to the 2011 Census is 87,348. There are 14,143 young people aged 12 to 25 years old. This is similar to the percentage of young people in this age group in the Melbourne Statistical Division (MSD). There were 7,448 males and 6,695 females across this age group.

Over the next decade, Altona Meadows will maintain the highest share of the municipality's young people. However the number living there is starting to fall as families mature. A similar trend is occurring in Seabrook. By 2021, the largest increases in young people are expected in Altona North and Spotswood-South Kingsville, an additional 420 and 175 young people respectively.³¹

Table 12: Age ranges of young people 12-25 years

Age	Number	%
12-18	6,747	8
19-25	7,396	8
Total	14,143	16

Source: ABS, 2012

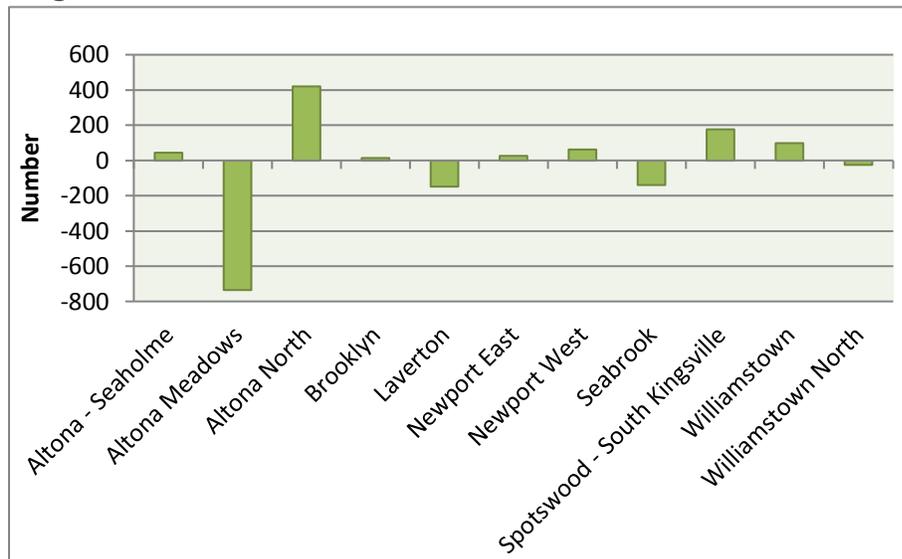
There has been a decline in the 12-17 year old age group of 392 young people from 2006 to 2011 and an increase in the 18-24 year old age group by 358 young people.

Just over one quarter of young people currently live in Altona Meadows. Thirteen per cent live in Altona North and 12 per cent live in Altona-Seaholme.³⁰

³⁰ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2012) Census of Population and Housing 2011, Commonwealth of Australia

³¹ Forecast'it (2012) Hobsons Bay – Population Forecasts <http://forecast2.id.com.au/Default.aspx?id=112&pg=5000>

Figure 6: Forecast Change of 13 to 25 Year Olds Between 2006 and 2021 by Neighbourhood Area



Source: ABS, 2012

Newly Arrived Young People

According to the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) there were 505 newly arrived young people from 1 January 2009 to 1 January 2012.

Table 13: Newly arrived young people by migration stream

Age on arrival	Migration Stream			Total
	Family	Humanitarian	Skilled	
12-15	12	15	22	49
16-17	11	6	10	27
18-24	175	37	217	429
Total	198	58	249	505

Source: DIAC Settlement Reporting Facility, 2012

Of the 505 newly arrived young people, 58 came via the humanitarian migration stream, 198 arrived via the family migration stream and there were a further 249 young people whose parents or themselves came via the skilled migration stream.³²

³² Australian Government Department of Immigration and Citizenship, 1 January 2009 to 1 January 2012. DIAC Settlement Reporting Facility.

Aboriginal Young People

According to the 2011 Census, there are 98 young people in Hobsons Bay who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. This has increased from 61 young people in 2006.³³

Young People with a Disability

There are an estimated 888 young people aged between 13-24 years with a disability living in Hobsons Bay.³⁴ Furthermore, 218 young people have a need of assistance with a core activity.

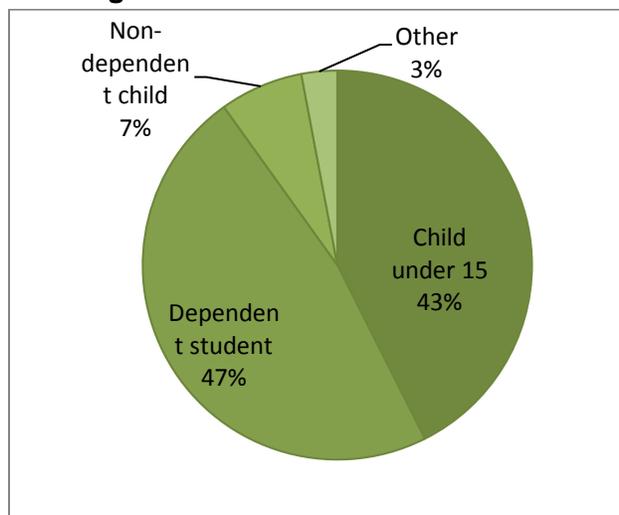
³³ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2012) Census of Population and Housing 2011, Commonwealth of Australia

³⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2003 & 2010) The Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers Catalogue No. 4430.0. ABS, Canberra.

Living Arrangements

In Hobsons Bay, the majority of 12 to 18 year olds live with their families as either dependent students or children under 15 years of age.

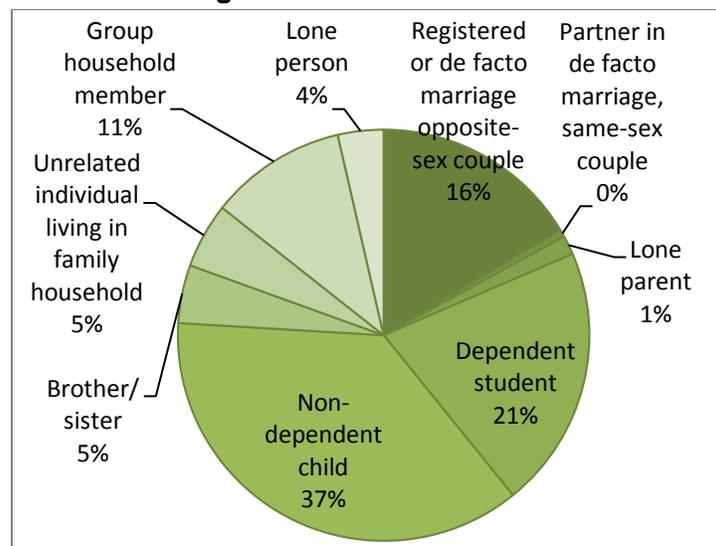
Figure 7: 12 – 18 Year Olds and Dependent Students Living in Private Dwellings



Source: ABS, 2012

The most common living arrangement for 19 to 25 year olds in Hobsons Bay is as dependent students and non-dependent children, closely followed by either marriage or in a de facto relationship (ABS, 2012).

Figure 8: 19 -25 Year Olds Living in Private Dwellings



Source: ABS, 2012

Approximately 16 per cent of young people aged 19-25 in Hobsons Bay are living in group households (11%) or households where they are unrelated to the other household members (5%). In addition, just over four per cent are living alone (ABS, 2012).

Family Formation

The table below provides an overview of young women in Hobsons Bay who have given birth to one or more children. As at the 2011 Census, there was a total of 263 young women aged 15-24 years who had given birth, this is compared to 324 in 2006 and 509 in 1996 and represents a 48 per cent decline from 1996 until 2011.

Table 14: Hobsons Bay Females Aged 15-24 Who Have Given Birth

No. of children	1996			2006			2011		
	15-19 years	20-24 years	Total	15-19 years	20-24 years	Total	15-19 years	20-24 years	Total
1	50	293	343	32	194	226	25	173	198
2	10	109	119	3	68	71	3	56	59
3	3	30	33	0	20	20	0	6	6
4+	3	11	14	3	4	7	0	0	0
Total	66	443	509	38	286	324	28	235	263

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics 2001, 2006 & 2011

Participation in Education

Secondary Education

As at the 2011 Census, there were 4,936 secondary students living in Hobsons Bay which equates to 5.9 per cent of the total Hobsons Bay population. This is similar to Greater Melbourne of 6.3 per cent.

When looking at participation in secondary school, majority of secondary school aged residents are attending a government (55%), catholic (31%) or independent (13%) secondary school.

There has been a slight decline in the number of enrolments from 2001 to 2011 although this is not significant.³⁵

Of the 4,938 secondary students enrolled the number of males (2,589) to females (2,349) was similar.³⁶

Apparent retention rates measure the number of Year 12 equivalent student enrolments expressed as a percentage of the number of Year 10 full time equivalent student enrolments two years earlier. Local government area retention rates are not considered reliable for use as they are more sensitive to local issues such as availability

³⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2012) Census of Population and Housing 2011, Commonwealth of Australia

³⁶ Ibid

of schools offering secondary education. Further, students are more prevalent to cross local government area boundaries (particularly in metro areas) than broader regional boundaries.

Table 15: Year 10-12 Apparent Retention Rates of Full-Time Equivalent Students

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Change 2006 to 2010
Western Metropolitan Region	81.4	81.2	81.1	82.9	83.1	1.7 points
Metropolitan Victoria	85.1	85.3	83.3	85.4	86.6	1.5 points
Victoria	81.1	81.3	79.7	81.1	82.4	1.3 points

Source: DEECD, 2010

In the Western Metropolitan region, the Year 10-12 apparent retention rate has increased from 81.4 in 2006 to 83.1 in 2010 (1.7%).

Post-secondary education

As indicated in table below, the participation of Hobsons Bay's young people aged 15-24 years in post secondary education has risen by 26 per cent in the past ten years, increasing from 2,147 to 2,698. Much of this increase was directed to the tertiary sector with over twice as many young people currently enrolled at university compared to those undertaking further education.

Table 16: Enrolment in Post Secondary Education

	2001			2006			2011			Change 2001 to 2011 %
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Technical/Further Education including TAFE Colleges										
Full time 15-24	239	204	443	229	210	439	278	221	496	12%
Part time 15-24	265	100	365	217	85	302	208	84	292	-20%
University or other Tertiary institution										
Full time 15-24	486	675	1,161	574	687	1,261	768	944	1,712	47%
Part time 15-24	73	105	178	53	95	148	89	109	198	11%
Total	1,063	1,084	2,147	1,073	1,077	2,150	1,343	1,358	2,698	26%

Source: ABS 2001, 2006 & 2011

Destination of Recent Year 12 Completers

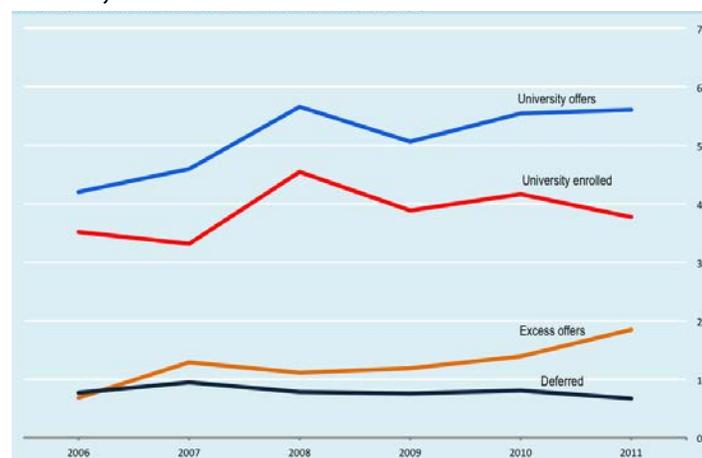
The On Track survey is run by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD). It follows up young people in the six months after they leave school from years 10, 11 and 12.

The Hobsons Bay aggregate On Track data is made up of six schools: Bayside College, Emmanuel College, Laverton P-12 College, Mount St Josephs Girls College, Point Cook Senior College,³⁷ and Williamstown High School.

According to the Wyndham and Hobsons Bay Local Learning and Employment Network's (WynBay LLEN) Environmental Scan 2012 there is a general upward trend in university offers and university enrolments for schools in the Hobsons Bay

cluster, (Figure 15) which is a positive indicator. Offers and enrolments in TAFE/VET have remained stable for the past two years (Figure 16).

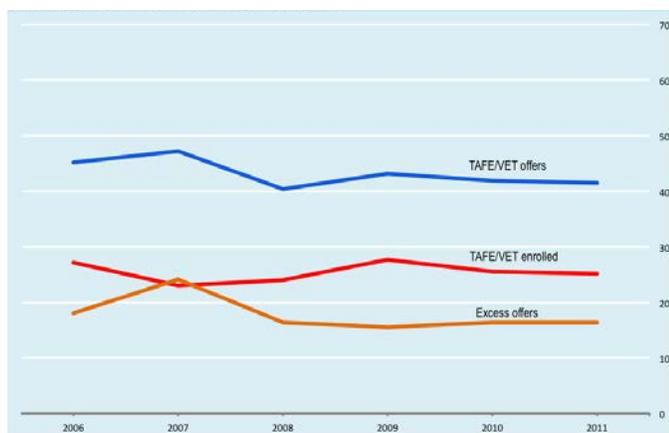
Figure 15: Hobsons Bay Cluster Aggregate On Track Data for University Offers, 2006-2011.



Source: 2006 to 2011 WynBay Completion and Achievement Data, DEECD

³⁷ Point Cook Senior College is outside the Hobsons Bay municipality however due to DEECD regional networks of principals it is included.

**Figure 16: Hobsons Bay Cluster
Aggregate On Track Data for TAFE/VET,
2006-2011**



Source: 2006 to 2011 WynBay Completion and Achievement Data, DEECD

The Transition of Early School Leavers

As the number of low-skilled jobs in the employment market decreases, due to global competition, the importance of educational qualifications increases. Students who fail to attain Year 12 have fewer employment opportunities and are more likely to experience extended periods of unemployment than Year 12 graduates. The attainment of Year 12 or an equivalent qualification, such as an apprenticeship or certificate III qualification, underpins further education, training or employment.³⁸

Transition and Risk

Some young people have difficulties managing the transition from school to work or further education. Organisations such as the Dusseldorp Skills Forum, who have researched and written extensively about youth transitions, have identified the potential risk of young people who leave school and are not engaged in further education, training or employment.

Approximately six per cent (285 young people) of 15 to 19 year olds and 14 per cent (638 young people) of 20 to 24 year olds are disengaged from paid work or education. Proportionally the incidence of disengaged youth has slightly improved since 2006 (Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) 2012).

In terms of the disengagement rate for 20 to 24 year olds the figure for Hobsons Bay is three per cent higher than the metropolitan Melbourne average. This figure is alarming as research has identified that there is an increased ongoing vulnerability for those disengaged at this age cohort. Further to this, against other metropolitan councils Hobsons Bay is ranked fourth in terms of disengagement (VLGA, 2012).

³⁸ Wyndham and Hobsons Bay Local Learning and Employment Network (WynBay LLEN) (2012) Environmental Scan 2012

Educational Attainment

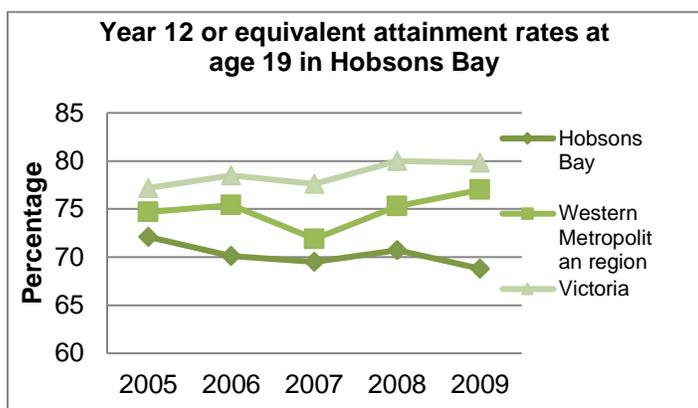
The 2011 Census provides further information into the educational attainments of young people who are no longer attending school and the highest level of secondary school they completed.

In Hobsons Bay, over the five year period 2005 to 2009, the Year 12 or equivalent rates have decreased by 3.4 percentage points, from 72.1 in 2005 to 68.8 in 2009. Further, in 2009 the year 12 or equivalent attainment rates in Hobsons Bay were lower than that in the Western Metropolitan region (77%) and lower than the rate across Victoria (79.8%).³⁹

the western metropolitan region (41.96%) and greater Melbourne (46.33%).

In relation to those that left school prior to Year 12, including years 9, 10 and 11 Hobsons Bay has slightly lower percentage than the western or greater Melbourne regions, however Hobsons Bay had 3.52 per cent of young people aged 15-19 years who no longer attend school only completed year 8 which is higher than the western region (3.23%) and greater Melbourne (3%).

Figure 17: Year 12 or Equivalent Attainment Rates at Age 19 in Hobsons Bay



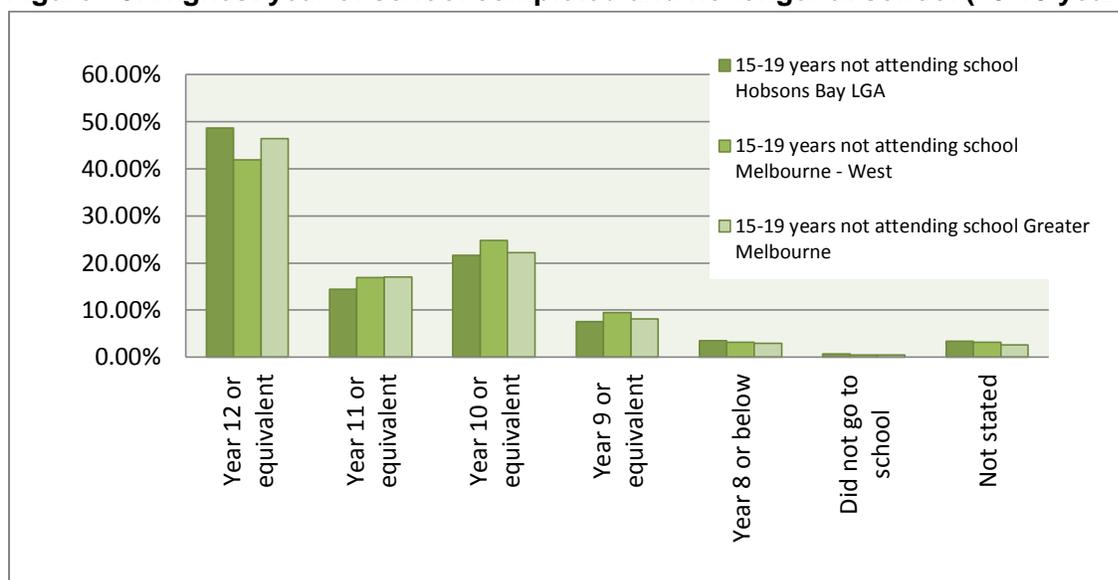
Source: DEECD, 2010

Figure 18 compares the level of attainment of 15-19 year olds in Hobsons Bay with their western and metropolitan counterparts.

Just under half (48.66%) had completed Year 12 or equivalent which is higher than

³⁹ Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (2010) Early childhood community profile, City of Hobsons Bay

Figure 18: Highest year of school completed and no longer at school (15-19 years)



Source: ABS, 2012

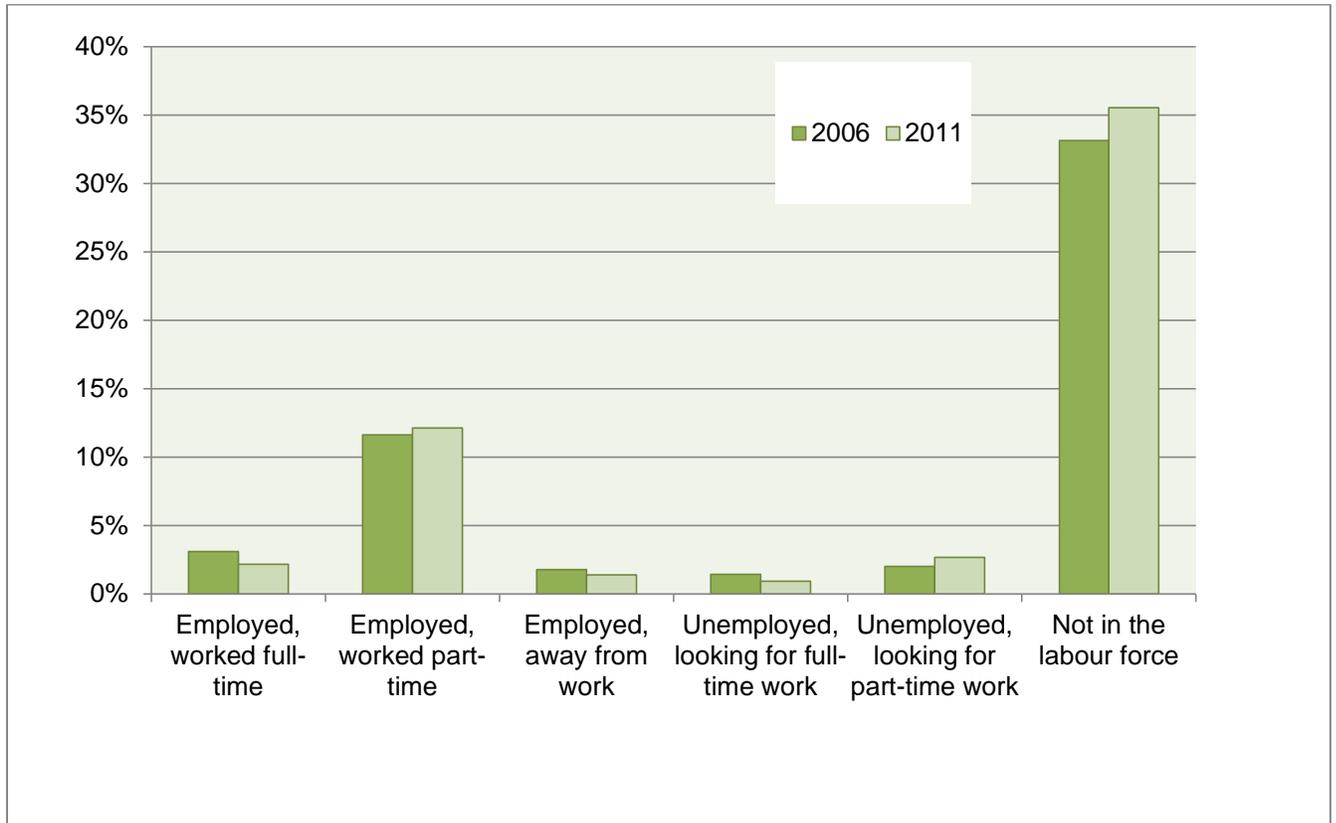
Labour Force Participation

Employment Status

In Hobsons Bay, employment trends are undergoing a shift. The numbers of young people working full-time are declining while those with a part-time job in the 19-25 year old age cohort are increasing. Those in the 12-18 years cohort have remained the same. The factors influencing this change include a growth in casual employment and part-time jobs particularly in the retail and hospitality sectors, which are the largest employers of young people, together with more young people combining their study with part-time work.

The figure 19 on the following page shows that in Hobsons Bay, the majority of 12 to 18 year olds are not in the labour force, which is to be expected as most are still in education. Those who are employed tend to work part time.

Figure 19: Employment status of 12-18 Year Olds

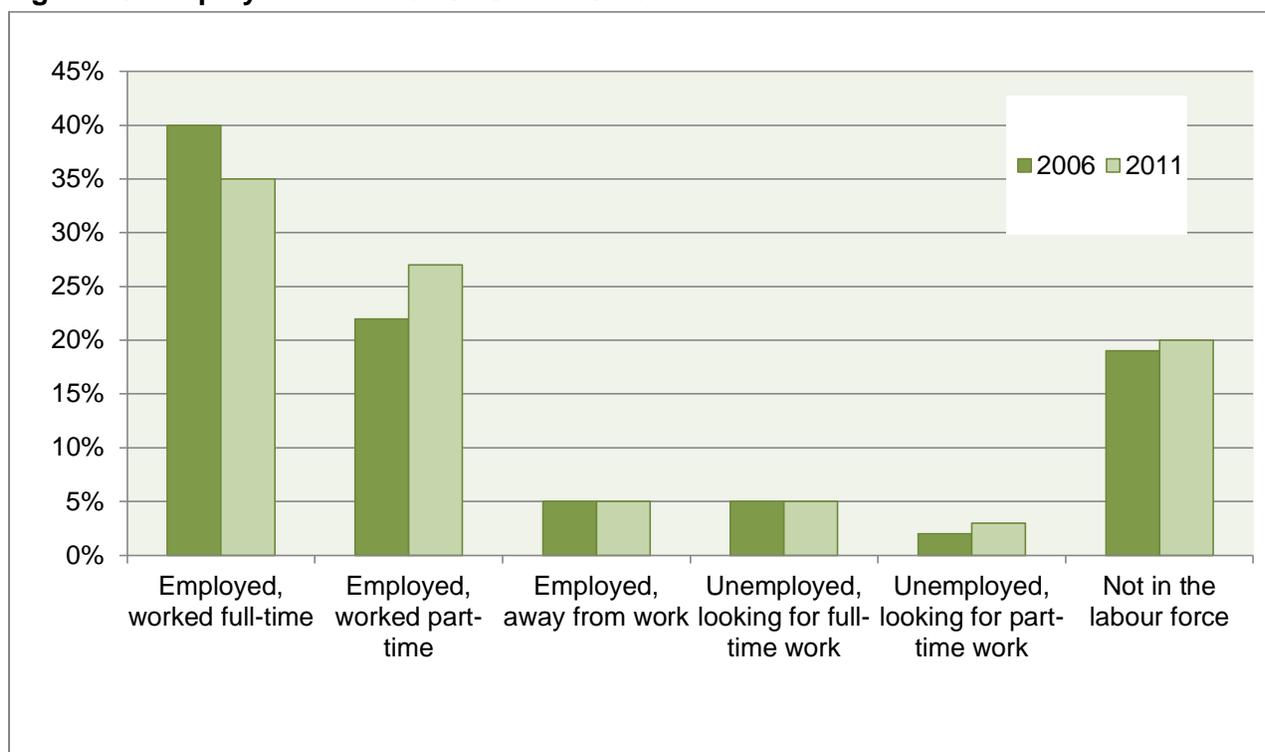


Source: ABS, 2012

In Hobsons Bay, 35 per cent of 19-25 year olds are employed full-time, although since 2006 there has been a decline of 6 per cent of young people (157) with a full-time job. In the same period, the number of young people in part-time work increased by 33 per cent (500 young people) which may be due to more young people balancing work and further study and or evidence of increased casualisation of the workforce (ABS, 2012).

Furthermore, since 2006 there has been a 40 per cent increase in the amount of 19-25 year olds unemployed looking for part time work (61 people) and an increase of 11 per cent of young people not in the labour force (150).

Figure 20: Employment status 19-25 Year Olds



Source: ABS, 2012

Employment Industry

Table 17 shows that retail trade has been the main employer of both age groups. This is followed by accommodation and food services for both age cohorts. However for 19 to 25 year olds manufacturing has decreased from 422 employed people in 2006 to 324 in 2011. Construction has overtaken as the third placed employer of young people aged between 19 and 25 in 2011 with 465 people being employed.

Table 17: Industry of Employment for Hobsons Bay Young People

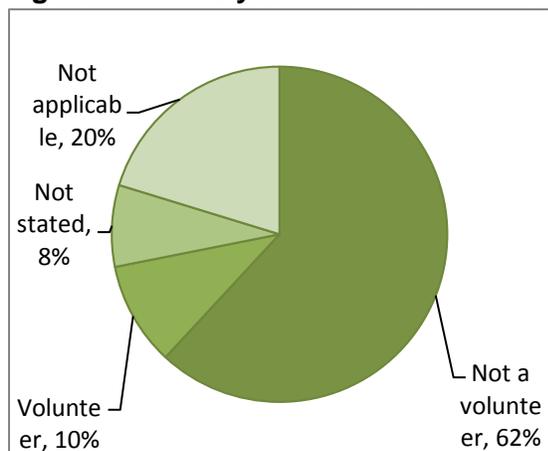
	12 to 18 years		19 to 25 years		Total	
	2006	2011	2006	2011	2006	2011
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	0	0	10	10	10	10
Mining	0	0	10	0	10	0
Manufacturing	68	73	422	324	490	397
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	0	0	21	38	21	38
Construction	59	59	335	465	394	524
Wholesale Trade	25	6	196	172	221	178
Retail Trade	403	315	823	864	1226	1179
Accommodation and Food Services	356	344	454	639	810	983
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	15	13	280	315	295	328
Information Media and Telecommunications	16	19	97	83	113	102
Financial and Insurance Services	6	3	208	162	214	165
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	18	14	91	70	109	84
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	12	16	300	294	312	310
Administrative and Support Services	26	13	198	213	224	226
Public Administration and Safety	5	6	173	135	178	141
Education and Training	20	38	175	258	195	296
Health Care and Social Assistance	16	26	301	352	317	378
Arts and Recreation Services	37	40	141	178	178	218
Other Services	34	31	204	205	238	236
Inadequately described	10	14	59	75	69	89
Not stated	46	26	105	93	151	119
Not applicable	not included	5688	not included	2454	not included	8142
Total	1172	6744	4603	7399	5775	14143

Source: ABS, 2012

Volunteering

Ten per cent of young people aged 12-25 years volunteer. This is lower than the average of 14 per cent for the broader Hobsons Bay community.

Figure 21: 12-25 year olds who volunteer



Source: ABS, 2012

Income

Table 18 outlines the individual weekly incomes of young people aged between 12 to 18, and 19 to 25 years as at the 2011 census. Twenty six per cent of 12 to 18 year olds had no income and it can be assumed that high proportions were completing their secondary education. This decreases to 11 per cent in the 19 to 25 year old bracket.

Within the 12 to 18 year old age bracket, just under 20 per cent had a weekly income of less than 200 dollars, suggesting that some were combining study with a part-time job or possibly receiving a Centrelink allowance.

This figure again decreases to 14 per cent as people move to the 19 to 25 year old age group and possibly leaving high school or further study and enter the workforce for the first time.

Table 18: Individual weekly income for young people aged 12-25 years from Hobsons Bay

	12 - 18 years number	12 - 18 years %	19 - 25 years number	19 - 25 years %	Total	Total %
Negative income	92	1%	60	1%	152	1%
Nil income	1758	26%	822	11%	2580	18%
\$1-\$199	1238	18%	1012	14%	2250	16%
\$200-\$299	129	2%	834	11%	963	7%
\$300-\$399	88	1%	665	9%	753	5%
\$400-\$599	72	1%	973	13 %	1045	7%
\$600-\$799	26	0%	1005	14%	1031	7%
\$800-\$999	7	0%	641	9%	648	5%
\$1,000-\$1,249	6	0%	425	6%	431	3%
\$1,250-\$1,499	0	0%	212	3%	212	2%
\$1,500-\$1,999	0	0%	82	1%	82	1%
\$2,000 or more	3	0%	41	1%	44	0%
Not stated	462	7%	625	8%	1087	8%
Not applicable	2865	42%	0	0%	2865	20%
Total	6746	100%	7397	100%	14143	100%

Source: ABS, 2012

Centrelink Allowances

Young people, who are studying, are unemployed or on low incomes may be eligible for a range of Centrelink allowances which vary according to:

- the type of allowance
- the age of the recipient

- whether they are living at home or independently
- whether they are single or partnered
- whether they have children

Table 19 provides an overview of the Centrelink allowances for 16 to 25 year olds who live in Hobsons Bay.

Table 19: Centrelink payments for 16-25 year olds living in Hobsons Bay

Carer Payment 16-19 years	Carer payment 20-25 years	Parenting Payment Single up to 25	Newstart Allowance 21-25	Disability Support Pension (16-25)	Youth Allowance Apprenticeship/ Traineeship	Youth Allowance Full-time Student (20-25)	Austudy (20-25)
<20	22	145	Approx 440	181	<20	1310	20

Source: Centrelink: unpublished data March quarter 2011

According to Centrelink data, there were just over 2,100 young people receiving payments. The largest type of payment was for full time students (1,310), of whom a small number of 20 were eligible for Austudy payment. There are also a small number of less than 20 who were receiving an allowance while they undertake an apprenticeship or traineeship.

There are 181 young people who were receiving a disability support pension. An approximate total of 440 young people (aged 21-25) were receiving unemployment assistance through Newstart.

Housing

Access to housing

Housing is an issue which becomes increasingly important as young people seek greater independence and prepare to leave home. In the current climate, with a shortage of rental properties, high rental costs and the increasing cost of purchasing

a home, young people are not alone in facing housing difficulties.

However, the difficulties associated with finding affordable, appropriate housing can be exacerbated for young people, particularly for those not yet established in permanent work, limited earning capacity, or not being able to provide appropriate references. Young people who are studying are also more likely to defer the decision to leave home until they have secure employment.

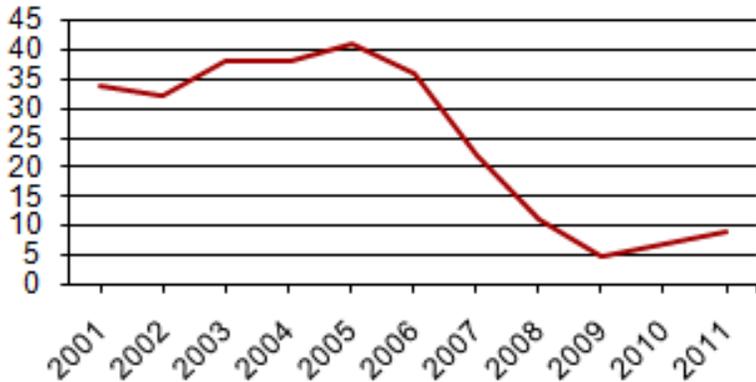
Rental housing

In 2011, there were 583 dwellings for rent in Hobsons Bay and of these, 53 (9 per cent) were affordable for low income households. While this figure has improved slightly over the last couple of years, it has fallen significantly from a peak in 2005, when there were 229 (45 per cent) affordable rental properties in Hobsons Bay.⁴⁰

⁴⁰ Dept of Human Services (2009), Victorian Government, Rental Reports

Figure 22: Percentage of Affordable Rentals

Latitude Housing Group Inc has 14



properties in the municipality, with 28 beds for young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

In addition, there are 14 registered rooming houses in Hobsons Bay. These are independently owned and therefore the conditions can vary.

As a result of the lack of affordable private rentals, more low income residents are turning to public housing (housing owned and managed by the state government). The Department of Human Services provides 1204 properties in Hobsons Bay; however the waiting lists are long, with an average waiting time of four years.⁴¹

Health and Wellbeing

Hospital Admissions

In 2010-2011, there were 2,222 hospital admissions of young people aged 15 to 24 who lived in Hobsons Bay. The most common reasons for admission were diseases of the digestive system which accounted for 16 per cent of all admissions.

Other common reasons for admission included pregnancy, childbirth and after birth care (329 admissions), injury, poisoning, and certain other consequences of external causes (294 admissions). See the table below.

⁴¹ Nader, C (2011) 'Crisis in Public Housing', The Age, 31 January 2011.

Table 20: Admissions to Hospital 2010-2011

Reason for admission	Males		Females		Total**
	15-19	20-24	15-19	20-24	
Certain Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Period	0	0	0	0	0
Certain Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	17	31	22	37	107
Congenital Malformations Deformations and Chromosomal Abnormalities	3 *	3 *	6	3*	15
Diseases of the Blood and Blood-Forming Organs and Certain Disorders Involving the Immune Mechanism	22	15	3	3	43
Diseases of the Circulatory System	15	7	9	5	36
Diseases of the Digestive System	74	93	96	100	363
Diseases of the Ear and Mastoid Process	3 *	0	3 *	0	6
Diseases of the Eye and Adnexa	3 *	6	3*	3 *	15
Diseases of the Genitourinary System	7	19	22	67	115
Diseases of the Musculoskeletal System and Connective Tissue	20	34	11	20	85
Diseases of the Nervous System	8	8	8	26	50
Diseases of the Respiratory System	25	38	40	37	140
Diseases of the Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue	18	25	11	20	74
Endocrine Nutritional and Metabolic Diseases	3 *	3 *	10	3*	19
Factors Influencing Health Status and Contact with Health Services	15	37	34	31	117
Injury Poisoning and Certain Other Consequences of External Causes	90	123	33	48	294
Mental and Behavioural Disorders	25	54	40	25	144
Neoplasms	11	8	13	15	47
Pregnancy Childbirth and the Puerperium	0	0	63	266	329
Symptoms Signs and Abnormal Clinical Laboratory Findings NEC	27	28	61	98	214
Undefined	3 *	3 *	0	3*	9
Total**	389	535	488	810	2,222

Source: Victorian Admitted Episodes Dataset (VAED) and Victorian Emergency Minimum Dataset (VEMD)

* = approximate value due to low numbers

** = approximate totals due to incomplete data set

Mental Health

Psychological or emotional distress refers to an individual's overall level of psychological strain or pain, as reflected in states of depression, anxiety and anger. Psychological distress may be fairly transient, e.g. experiencing high anxiety over an upcoming exam, or sadness

because of the break-up of relationship, but may also be a continuing problem, particularly among those experiencing mental health problems and clinical disorders.⁴²

In 2009, 19.9 per cent of adolescents (years 7, 9 and 11) surveyed in Hobsons Bay reported high levels of psychological

⁴² AIHW (2007)

distress. This was higher than that reported across Western Metropolitan Region (14.1%) and Victoria (13%).⁴³

Despite fluctuations, the Western Metropolitan rates for hospitalisations for intentional self harm have been higher than that across Victoria for three of the five years between 2004 and 2009.⁴⁴

Specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) are provided for children and adolescents up to the age of 18 years with serious emotional disturbance including diagnosable psychiatric disorders.

Despite the high levels of psychological distress being reported, from 2005-06 to 2010-11, the number of CAMHS clients and the associated number of contacts with mental health services has reduced significantly from 228 clients (7,210 contacts) to 81 clients (856 contacts). Regionally, this translates to a 5 per cent reduction in clients (7% to 2%).⁴⁵

The Council funds one free youth specific counselor. This is the only free youth specific counselor operating in the municipality, which has led to long waiting lists for young people trying to access support. Hobsons Bay City Council counseling data shows that the average wait for counseling is 14 weeks.⁴⁶

Hobsons Bay Youth Services data shows that in the past 12 months referrals to the counseling service have been made by: parents (23%), schools (42%), community agencies/government departments (15%), and self referrals (20%).⁴⁷

The most common issues that young people are presenting to counseling for are anger

management, family issues, mental health, bullying, self esteem, grief and loss.

There has also been an increase in young people presenting at the counseling service with significant mental health issues and being deemed ineligible or being unable to offer longer term support as required.⁴⁸

In 2010-2011, 305 requests for counseling were received, an increase of 41 per cent from the previous financial year which saw 217 young people requesting counseling support.⁴⁹

Of the 305 requests for counseling, 96 per cent were eligible for counseling support, a slight increase from the previous year (88%). There is continuing ineligibility to the service due to young people presenting with issues requiring specialised and longer-term support from things such as significant mental health issues, anxiety, depression, personality disorders and eating disorders, which need.⁵⁰

Bullying

Bullying is characterised by an imbalance of physical or psychological strength between the bully and his or her victim. Bullies repeatedly expose their victims to aggressive physical or verbal acts over time.⁵¹ Bullying is known to negatively impact on young people's mental health status, including increasing risk of depression, anxiety, poor self-esteem and withdrawal.⁵²

In 2009, 48.3 per cent of adolescents surveyed (years 7, 9 and 11) in Hobsons Bay were recently bullied. This was higher

⁴³ Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (2010) Adolescent Community Profile, City of Hobsons Bay 2010

⁴⁴ Adolescent Community Profile (2010)

⁴⁵ Department of Health (2012a), Mental Health and Drugs Region Division, Community-based Public Mental Health Service Client Residential Profiles NWMR, 2010-2011

⁴⁶ Hobsons Bay City Council internal reporting

⁴⁷ Hobsons Bay City Council internal reporting

⁴⁸ Hobsons Bay City Council internal reporting

⁴⁹ Hobsons Bay City Council internal reporting

⁵⁰ Hobsons Bay City Council internal reporting

⁵¹ AIHW (2009)

⁵² Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (2010) Adolescent Community Profile, City of Hobsons Bay 2010

than the proportion reported across Western Metropolitan Region (45.8%) and Victoria (44.6%) although both differences were not significant.⁵³

Youth Services manage the state funded “Access and Service Coordination” project. Student Welfare Coordinators are reporting that over 90 per cent of their work with students has involved implementing suicide prevention training.⁵⁴

Psychiatric Hospitalisation

Mental health problems are the leading contributor to burden of disease among young Australians with anxiety and depression being the specific leading cause in both males and females.⁵⁵ There are many consequences if mental health problems are not resolved. Children may experience a poorer quality of life, physical health problems, decreased academic attainment, risky behaviours, substance use, and suicidal ideation. Mental illness can also have negative impact on the family and social environment.⁵⁶

Table 21 shows that during 2009-2010, there were 11.2 psychiatric hospitalisations per 1,000 adolescents (10-17 years old) in Hobsons Bay. This is higher than the psychiatric hospitalisation rate in the Western Metropolitan region (6.2 per 1,000 adolescents) and higher than the rate in Victoria (6.7 per 1,000 adolescents).⁵⁷

Hobsons Bay was also ranked six out of 68 local government areas in terms of the psychiatric hospitalisation rate during 2009-2010. A rank of one was assigned to the

local government area with the highest rate of hospital separations.⁵⁸

Table 21: Psychiatric Hospitalisation Rate for Adolescents (10-17 years) in Hobsons Bay 2005-2006 to 2009-2010

	2005-2006 Rate per 1000	2006-2007 Rate per 1000	2007-2008 Rate per 1000	2008-2009 Rate per 1000	2009-2010 Rate per 1000
Hobsons Bay	6.6	11.3	6.8	5.0	11.2
Western Metropolitan Region	9.3	9.5	7.6	7.1	6.2
Victoria	8.8	8.0	6.9	6.1	6.7

Source: Department of Health 2010, Victorian Admitted Episodes Dataset (VAED), Funding, Health Information Policy Branch, unpublished

Alcohol Use

Alcohol use and abuse is an issue that impacts on the entire population. Young people are not immune to its affects, some of which can result in involvement in car accidents, physical assaults, and admissions to hospital.

Approximately 80 per cent of young Australians have consumed alcohol by age 19, with 62.4 per cent of 14 to 19 year olds consuming alcohol in the last 12 months and 21.8 per cent consuming alcohol on a weekly basis.⁵⁹

The short and long term harms associated with alcohol use in young people are considerable as alcohol also acts as a precursor to other health and lifestyle problems experienced by young people that can impact negatively on their future.⁶⁰

⁵³ Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (2010) Adolescent Community Profile, City of Hobsons Bay 2010

⁵⁴ Hobsons Bay City Council internal reporting

⁵⁵ AIHW (2007)

⁵⁶ Raphael, B (2000) Promoting the Mental Health and Wellbeing of Children and Young People. Discussion Paper: Key Principles and Directions, National Mental Health Working Group, Department of Health and Aged Care.

⁵⁷ Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (2010) Adolescent Community Profile, City of Hobsons Bay 2010

⁵⁸ Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (2010) Adolescent Community Profile, City of Hobsons Bay 2010

⁵⁹ AIHW. 2010 National Drug Strategy Household Survey report. Canberra: AIHW, 2011

⁶⁰ NHMRC. Australian Guidelines to reduce health risk from drinking alcohol. Canberra: NHMRC; 2009.

In particular, alcohol consumption can act as a risk factor for unsafe sexual practices,⁶¹ violence and injury,⁶² adverse behavioural problems,⁶³ academic failure,⁶⁴ and mental health and social problems.⁶⁵ In addition, early age of onset and feeling drunk during initial drinking experiences increases probability of problem drinking in adulthood.⁶⁶

Alcohol Related Assaults

Data on alcohol related assault is limited to young people aged 18 to 24 years.⁶⁷ In 2007-08 there were 31 young people from Hobsons Bay who were victims of alcohol related assault. There has been an increase in alcohol related assaults for young people living in Hobsons Bay which is similar to the NWMR and Victorian trend. However Hobsons Bay still remains lower than both.

⁶¹ Coleman L, and Carter, S. A qualitative study of the relationship between alcohol consumption and risky sex in adolescents. *Arch Sex Behav.* 2005;34:649 - 61.

⁶² Mattila V, Parkkari, J., Lintonen, T., et al. Occurrences of violence and violent-related injuries among 12-18 year old Finns. *Scand J Public Health.* 2005;33:307-13.

⁶³ French M, and Maclean, J. Underage alcohol use, delinquency, and criminal activity. *Health Economics.* 2006;15:1261-81.

⁶⁴ NHMRC. Australian Guidelines to reduce health risk from drinking alcohol. Canberra: NHMRC; 2009.

⁶⁵ Brown S, and Tapert, S. Adolescence and the trajectory of alcohol use: basic to clinical studies. *Annals NY Acad Sci.* 2004;1021:234-44.

⁶⁶ Warner L, White, H., and Johnson, V. Alcohol initiation experiences and family history of alcoholism as predictors of problem-drinking trajectories. *J Stud Alcohol.* 2007;68:56-65.

⁶⁷ Matthews, S., and Barratt, M. J. (2011). Victorian alcohol statistics: Wholly alcohol attributable hospitalisations across Victorian local government areas Volume 2 Alcohol related harms and use across Victorian LGAs 1999-2000 to 2007-08 Appendices and Data Table Updates. Fitzroy, Victoria: Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre.

Table 22: Alcohol Related Assaults For 18 to 24 Year Olds

Area	2003-2004 Total rates per 10,000	2004-2005 Total rates per 10,000	2005-2006 Total rates per 10,000	2006-2007 Total rates per 10,000	2007-2008 Total rates per 10,000
Hobsons Bay	19.28	20.29	27.74	33.57	28.89
NWMR	27.80	30.07	36.08	40.39	31.96
Victoria	32.08	35.30	38.83	42.25	34.74

Source: Department of Health and Victoria: Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre, Victoria Police LEAP

Alcohol Related Hospital Admissions

Alcohol related hospital admission is admission to hospital resulting from high-risk alcohol consumption. Table 23 provides an overview of alcohol related hospital admissions from 2003-04 through to 2007-08 for 15 to 24 year olds who live in Hobsons Bay.

Table 23: Alcohol Related Hospitalisations 15 to 24 Years Old.

Area	2003-2004 Total rates per 10,000	2004-2005 Total rates per 10,000	2005-2006 Total rates per 10,000	2006-2007 Total rates per 10,000	2007-2008 Total rates per 10,000
Hobsons Bay	40.90	46.94	52.56	57.00	58.71
NWMR	37.76	41.64	41.24	45.94	48.42
Victoria	42.09	47.04	48.19	50.44	51.48

Source: Department of Health and Victoria: Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre, Victorian Admitted Episodes Database

There has been an increase in alcohol related hospitalisations at a local level, regionally and at the Victorian level. The level of increase in Hobsons Bay however has been higher than those in the NWMR and Victoria.

Wholly Alcohol Attributable Hospitalisations

Table 24 provides an overview of wholly alcohol attributable related hospital admissions from 2003-04 through to 2007-08 for 15 to 24 year olds who live in Hobsons Bay. Wholly alcohol attributable hospitalisations do not include assaults, car accidents, injuries and other causes of hospitalisation that may be partially caused by alcohol.

The Victorian rates for males aged 15 to 24 years rose from 34 to 47 per 10,000 residents. The North and West Metropolitan Region (NWMR) rate follows this overall trend, rising from 33 to 42 per 10,000 residents over the last five years.

The NWMR rate for females aged 15 to 24 years showed a higher increase, rising from 21 to 38 per 10,000 residents over the last five years.

Hobsons Bay followed a similar trend across both males and females with males increasing from 46 to 58 per 10,000 and females increasing from 22 to 42 per 10,000 over the five year period.

Hobsons Bay was similar to the state and other regions with males showing generally

higher rates of hospitalisation than females which is different from the broader NWMR which has started to trend towards convergence between rates of hospitalisation among males and females aged 15 to 24 years in the region.⁶⁸

⁶⁸ Matthews, S., Barratt, M.J. Strickland, H. and Lloyd B. (2011). Victorian alcohol statistics: Wholly alcohol attributable hospitalisations across Victorian local government areas – Age and gender comparisons 2003–04 to 2007–08. Volume 1. Fitzroy, Victoria: Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre

Table 24: Wholly Alcohol Attributable Hospitalisations 15 to 24 Year Olds.

Area	2003-2004 Total rates per 10,000			2004-2005 Total rates per 10,000			2005-2006 Total rates per 10,000			2006-2007 Total rates per 10,000			2007-2008 Total rates per 10,000		
	Male	Female	Total												
Hobsons Bay	45.81	21.63	33.64	52.40	16.08	34.21	46.63	16.02	31.23	68.25	25.15	47.21	58.38	41.92	50.33
NWMR	32.58	20.52	26.54	33.09	24.30	28.71	39.28	26.62	32.99	44.31	26.83	35.65	41.90	38.11	40.02
Victoria	34.42	23.98	29.27	39.01	29.05	34.11	39.28	33.44	39.59	44.31	31.57	39.88	41.90	33.37	40.19

Source: Department of Health and Victoria: Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre

Alcohol Related Serious Road Injuries

In 2007-08 there were 19 young people from Hobsons Bay who were victims of alcohol related serious road injuries. There has been an increase in alcohol related serious road injuries for young people living in Hobsons Bay

which is similar to the NWMR and Victorian Trend. However Hobsons Bay (17.71 per 10,000) is higher than both the NWMR (12.97 per 10,000) and Victoria (15.29 per 10,000) in 2007-2008.

Table 25: Alcohol Related Series Road Injuries 15 to 24 Years Olds.

Area	2003-2004 Total rates per 10,000	2004-2005 Total rates per 10,000	2005-2006 Total rates per 10,000	2006-2007 Total rates per 10,000	2007-2008 Total rates per 10,000
Hobsons Bay	10.88	14.09	11.08	9.44	17.71
NWMR	12.90	14.47	13.07	14.24	12.97
Victoria	15.20	16.85	15.66	15.92	15.29

Source: Department of Health and Victoria: Turning Point Alcohol and Drug Centre, VicRoads

Sexual and Reproductive Health

Sexual and reproductive health is integral to supporting young people as they develop. Women's Health West identified significant issues such as teenage fertility rates, low pap screening rates and low proportions of contraceptive use in Hobsons Bay, highlighting

this as a health need for young people in Hobsons Bay.⁶⁹

Nutrition

In Australia, as in many Western countries, people often struggle to meet the recommended daily intake of fruits and vegetables. In Victoria, just over one quarter (27.1%) of young people eat their daily serve of fruit. A much greater proportion (57.3%) eat the

⁶⁹ Womens Health West (2013) Women in the City of Hobsons Bay

minimum recommended daily serves of vegetables.⁷⁰

In 2009, 20.1 per cent of adolescents (years 7, 9 and 11) in Hobsons Bay were eating the minimum recommended serves of fruit and vegetables each day. This was higher than the proportion reported across the Western Metropolitan Region (18.3%) and Victoria (19%).⁷¹

Sun Protection

Avoidance of sunlight with the use of clothing and sunscreen, avoidance to exposure to sunlight in the middle of the day, use of broad-spectrum sunscreen and the use of sun protective structures are all strategies that can be employed to reduce the exposure to sunlight.⁷²

While adolescents show a high level of awareness of the dangers of sun exposure, they tend to adopt sun protection behaviours less frequently than adults. Young people are at high risk of experiencing skin damage owing to excessive sun exposure. Australia has a long history of sun protection education; however, there are still sub-optimal practices among adolescents.⁷³

In 2009, 2.1 per cent of adolescents (years 7, 9 and 11) in Hobsons Bay adopted safe sun behaviours. This was lower than the proportion reported across the Western Metropolitan Region (3.2%) and Victoria (3.1%).⁷⁴

Oral Health

Tooth brushing assists in ensuring good oral health. Effective tooth brushing removes dental plaque that can cause inflammation of the gums and dental decay.⁷⁵ If good oral health

strategies can be established in the early years, there is greater likelihood that an individual will have good oral health behaviours and oral health outcomes in adult life.⁷⁶

In 2009, 62.2 per cent of adolescents (years 7, 9 and 11) in Hobsons Bay were reported to brush their teeth a least twice a day. This was lower than the proportion reported across the Western Metropolitan Region (66.3%) and Victoria (67.4%).⁷⁷

Physical Health

Australia's physical activity recommendations for children aged 5 to 18 years advise that children need at least 60 minutes (and up to 7 hours) of moderate to vigorous physical activity every day.⁷⁸

In 2009, 14.7 per cent of adolescents (years 7, 9 and 11) surveyed in Hobsons Bay did the recommended amount of physical activity every day. This was higher than the proportion reported across the Western Metropolitan Region (13.2%) and Victoria (12.3%).

Participation in the Council Youth Services

As 2011, Hobsons Bay Youth Services were in contact with over 10,300 young people. As shown in the table below, Youth Services provide a range of services and programs for young people aged 12 to 25 years who live, work or study within the municipality of Hobsons Bay and, where appropriate, their families.

⁷⁰ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2006)

⁷¹ Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (2010) Adolescent Community Profile, City of Hobsons Bay 2010

⁷² Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (2010) Adolescent Community Profile, City of Hobsons Bay 2010

⁷³ Centre for Adolescent Health (2010)

⁷⁴ Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (2010) Adolescent Community Profile, City of Hobsons Bay 2010

⁷⁵ Robinson, PG, Deacon SA, Deery, C, Heanue M, Walmsley AD, Worthington, HV, Glenny AM & Shaw WC, (2005) manual versus powered tooth brushing for oral health, Cochrane Database for Systematic Reviews 2005, Issue 2,

⁷⁶ Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (2010) Adolescent Community Profile, City of Hobsons Bay 2010

⁷⁷ Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (2010) Adolescent Community Profile, City of Hobsons Bay 2010

⁷⁸ DoHA (2004)

Table 26: Services and Participant Numbers⁷⁹

Type of Service/Program	Participant Numbers
Mainstream Holiday Program	624
After School Youth Club	2,440
Disability programs	107
Youth Participation and Youth Week	498
Freeza Program and Youth Events	931
Skill Development and Support Programs	417
Parenting Information Forums and Workshops	263

Source: Hobsons Bay Youth Services, 2012

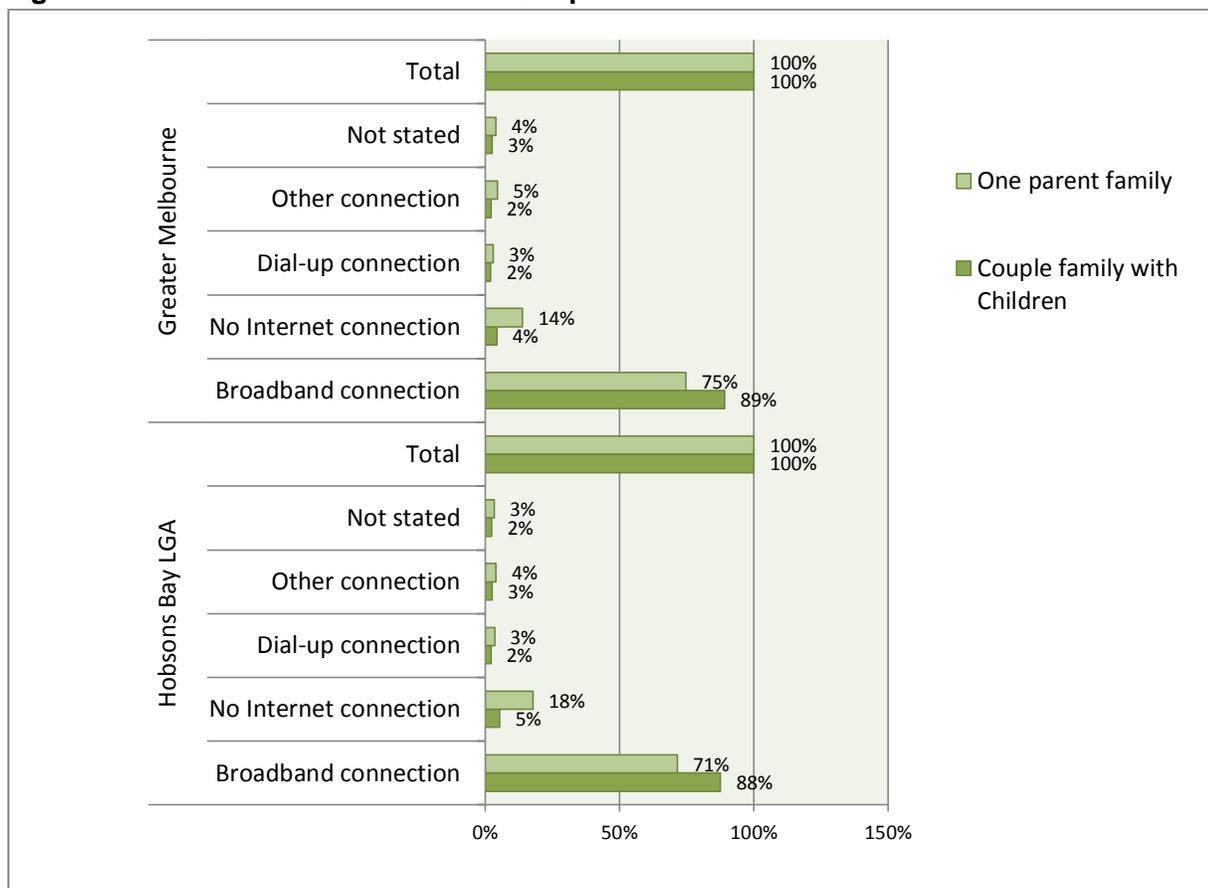
Access to the internet

Increasingly, access to the internet is important, not only as an educational tool but also as a method for maintaining social connections. The figure below provides an overview of single parent and couple families in Hobsons Bay that have access to the internet.

There were 18 per cent of one parent families with children who did not have access to the internet compared with 5 per cent of couple families with children who do not have access to the internet. This trend is also evident for Greater Melbourne although the rate for Hobsons Bay one parent families is 4 per cent higher.

⁷⁹ The following data is not a comprehensive list of programs, services and activities delivered by Youth Services, however it does provide an overview of the breadth of options and the level of engagement with Hobsons Bay young people.

Figure 23: Access to the Internet for Couple Families and One Parent Families.



Source: ABS, 2012

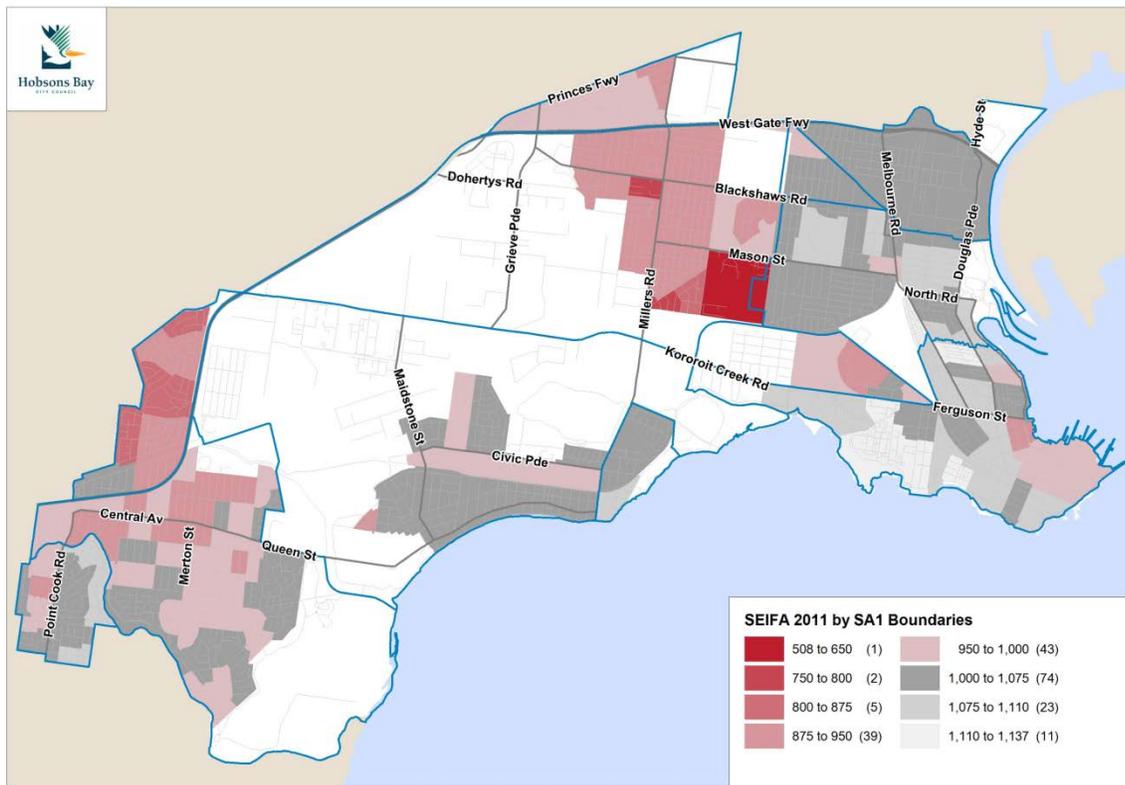
Socio – Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) – Index of Disadvantage

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) are produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and is based on factors such as low income, low educational attainment, high unemployment, jobs in relatively unskilled occupations and variables that reflect disadvantage. As per the figure below, the darker the red on the map, the higher the incidence of disadvantage. The palest grey areas have the least disadvantage.

In 2011, the SEIFA Index for Hobsons Bay was 1,001.7. This put Hobsons Bay at ninth most disadvantaged municipality in metropolitan Melbourne.

Vulnerable young people tend to live within these disadvantaged areas (Laverton, Altona North and Altona Meadows) indicating that their parents might have lower educational attainment or income levels. One parent families also often have lower income levels.

Figure 24: SEIFA According To Neighbourhood Area 2011



Source: ABS, 2006

Intergenerational equity in the environment

Similar to children, young people live in an environment that is vastly different from that of previous generations. In the last years alone over, new chemicals have been added to our eco-system, and their impact on health is in most cases unknown. Equally, development continues to intrude and transform previous areas of the natural environment, placing additional stresses on finite natural resources.

In most cases, children and young people are not in control of their environment and are

dependent on adults to ensure protection of their surroundings and guard them from potential exposure to hazardous environmental conditions or harmful substances.

It is the responsibility of everyone who lives, works and visits Hobsons Bay to ensure the protection of the environment for future generations.

What Are the Major Issues in Relation to Young People in Hobsons Bay?

The health of young people (aged 12 to 25 years) is the result of a complex interplay of genetic, social, environmental, economic and cultural factors. Key issues that have been identified for further support for young people in Hobsons Bay include:

Equity

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) are produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and is based on factors such as low income, low educational attainment, high unemployment, jobs in relatively unskilled occupations and variables that reflect disadvantage.

In 2011, the SEIFA Index for Hobsons Bay was 1,001.7. This put Hobsons Bay at ninth most disadvantaged municipality in metropolitan Melbourne.

Vulnerable young people tend to live within these disadvantaged areas (Laverton, Altona North and Altona Meadows) indicating that their parents might have lower educational attainment or income levels. One parent families also often have lower income levels.

Mental Health

Young people in Hobsons Bay, for a variety of reasons, are more likely to require support for mental health issues including access to counseling and other youth specific supports. Young people in Hobsons Bay have a higher risk of bullying and psychiatric hospitalisation.

Education and Employment

Young people in Hobsons Bay have a lower rate of high school completion and a higher rate of disengagement from paid work or education.

Health and Wellbeing

Sexual and reproductive health is integral to supporting young people as they develop. Women's Health West identified significant issues such as teenage fertility rates, low pap screening rates and low proportions of contraceptive use, highlighting the sexual and reproductive health needs of young people in Hobsons Bay

Young people in Hobsons Bay are less likely to adopt safe sun behaviours and to brush their teeth twice a day.

There has been a significant increase in alcohol related hospitalisations for young people in Hobsons Bay in comparison to the NWMR and Victoria.

Legislation and Policy Analysis

Legislation and Policy Analysis

International, Federal, State and Local policy frameworks inform funding priorities and local policy initiatives in the children and youth field. Each of these influences are presented below. The Council has a responsibility of abiding by all relevant legislation and regulations and is committed to enforcing the principles of relevant policies and standards. It also has a responsibility to be informed about issues affecting children and young people and advocating accordingly.

International

UNICEF's Child Friendly Cities Principles

One key aim of this plan is to support and educate the community about nurturing the creation of child friendly environments.

According to UNICEF, a Child Friendly City is a local system of good governance committed to fulfilling children's rights. A Child Friendly City is actively engaged in fulfilling the right of every young citizen to:

- Influence decisions about their city; and express their opinion on the city they want
- Participate in family, community and social life; including cultural and social events
- Receive basic services such as health care, education; and social support services
- Be protected from exploitation, violence and abuse
- Walk safely in the streets on their own; meet friends and play
- Have green spaces to play in nature with plants and animals
- Live in an unpolluted environment
- Be an equal citizen of their city with access to every service, regardless of ethnic origin, religion, income, gender or disability
- Drink safe water and have access to proper sanitation.⁸⁰

Federal

National Quality Framework

National Quality Framework applies to most long day care, family day care, preschool (or kindergarten) and outside schools hours care services.

The National Quality Framework aims to raise quality and drive continuous improvement and consistency in education and care services through:

- a national legislative framework
- a National Quality Standard
- a national quality rating and assessment process
- a new national body called the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority.

National Legislative Framework

The national legislative framework is established through an applied laws system and consists of:

- the Education and Care Services National Law
- the Education and Care Services National Regulations.

It creates a jointly governed uniform national approach to the regulation and quality assessment of education and care services

⁸⁰Child Friendly Cities: <http://www.childfriendlycities.org/>

and replaces existing separate licensing and quality assurance processes.

A new national body—the Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority—will oversee the National Quality Framework and ensure the consistent and effective implementation of the new system.

National Quality Standard

The National Quality Standard sets a new national benchmark for the quality of education and care services. The National Quality Standard is divided into seven Quality Areas:

- Educational program and practice
- Children’s health and safety
- Physical environment
- Staffing arrangements
- Relationships with children
- Collaborative partnerships with families and communities
- Leadership and service management.
- The National Quality Standard aims to promote:
 - the safety, health and wellbeing of children
 - a focus on achieving outcomes for children through high-quality educational programs
 - families’ understanding of what distinguishes a quality service.

The National Quality Standard will replace the National Childcare Accreditation Council.

The National Quality Standard will require all providers to improve services in the areas that impact on a child’s development and safety and to provide families with quality information to help them make informed choices about services.

Education Reform Agenda

To improve the quality of schooling nationally, the Federal Government is working with states, territories and non-government education providers as part of a shared commitment to achieve results. One aspect of this work is the Building the Education Revolution program which has seen investing in building learning environments to help children, families and communities participate in activities that will support achievement, develop learning potential and bring communities together. It also includes a comprehensive review of the funding system for schools.

The Australian Government has a varied and wide role in the lives of young people. These include education, employment and income support but also less obvious areas like communication and transport.

National Strategy for Young Australians 2010

The National Strategy for Young Australians was launched in 2010 and is part of the Australian Government’s ongoing process of giving young people a better deal and a voice in decisions that affect them. It will be used as a guide for future Government action to encourage and help young people aged between 12 and 24 years to take charge of their own lives.

Office for Youth

The Australian Government’s Office for Youth within the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, coordinates the Australian Government’s significant investment and effort for young people across government.

The Office for Youth leads the Australian Government’s commitment to working for and with young people, acknowledging that young people are valuable participants in Australian

society and are crucial to our nation's economic and social prosperity.

The guiding principles for the Australian Government Office for Youth are:

Universality – every young person is important.

Engagement – in order to be effective, governments must stop talking to young people, and start engaging with young people.

Inclusion – the Office for Youth acknowledges there are gaps in opportunity and achievement between young people doing well and those faced with disadvantage and social exclusion.

The Office for Youth delivers on a range of projects and programs to help young Australians to reach their full potential and assist vulnerable young Australians to engage with their families and the community including the following reports.

Investing in Australia's Young People Report 2009

Investing in Australia's young people report takes stock of the Australian Government's significant investment in young people by capturing policies and programs that are youth-specific and those that are not specific to youth but have a significant impact on young people. The report presents a comprehensive picture of efforts and resourcing being directed to youth affairs across the Australian Government and assist to identify potential gaps and areas for future attention.

State of Australia's Young People Report 2009

State of Australia's Young People report describes how young people in Australia are faring across all the major life domains, points out links between the different domains like education, health and employment and identifies those who may need additional support to do well.

Effective Communication with Young People Report 2009

Effective Communication with Young People report was specifically developed for government use, and is the outcome of a research project looking at how government can most effectively communicate with the current generation of young people. It centers on this generation of young people who have unique communication methods.

State

Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005

The Early Years Plan is underpinned by legislation such as the Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005. The main purpose of the Act as it relates to Hobsons Bay City Council *is to establish principles for the wellbeing of children*. These principles for children are divided into three groups:

1. The development and provision of services for children and families should be based upon fundamental principles outlined in the act.
2. How Services for children and families should be designed and developed.
3. What providers of services to children and families should adhere to.

Families Statement

In 2011 the government released its first Families Statement. The families' statement is the government's commitment to Victorian families. The Families Statement intends to lay the groundwork for an ongoing assessment of where the government needs to focus to help create a Victoria in which all families have a chance to achieve their aspirations.

The Victorian Families Statement 2011 reports on key factors that impact on a family's quality of family life including such things as household budgets, jobs, transport, safety, rural and regional support, disability support, health and education.

Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2011-2015

The goal of the plan is to improve the health and wellbeing of all Victorians by engaging communities in prevention, and by strengthening systems for health protection, health promotion and preventive healthcare across all sectors and levels of government.

The Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2011–2015 provides the basis for building a state-wide prevention system – complementary to the healthcare system – that will be more effective, better coordinated and sustainable over the longer term.

The Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2011–2015 has identified four priority settings as major focal points for action: early childhood and education settings, local communities and environments, workplaces, and health services.

Victorian Child and Adolescent Outcomes Framework

The Outcomes Framework for Victoria's children and adolescents includes safety, health, learning, development and wellbeing from birth to 18 years; reflecting an ecological model that places the child at the centre of family, community and society. (See appendix one)

In choosing which outcomes should be used to describe how children and young people are faring, the framework has relied on the best available research evidence internationally to choose those things which genuinely make a difference to children and young people, and to establish ways to measure these in meaningful ways.

The Outcomes Framework provides a common basis for setting objectives and planning across the whole of government. The Victorian Child and Adolescent Monitoring System will then collect analyse and prepare reports on relevant data against indicators for each key outcome to measure how children and young people are faring.

Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework

The Victorian Framework provides early childhood professionals with a common language for describing outcomes for children, and describes practice principles to guide early childhood professionals to work together, with children and with families to achieve the best outcomes for every child. The Victorian Framework:

- identifies five Early Years Learning and Development Outcomes for all children
- identifies eight Practice Principles for Learning and Development, categorised as Collaborative, Effective and Reflective. The Practice Principles describe the most effective ways for early childhood professionals to work together, with children and with families to facilitate learning and development
- emphasises the importance of supporting children's and families' transitions as they move within and across services throughout the early childhood period.

The Victorian Framework is intended to support all professionals who work with children from birth to eight years.

Universal Access to Early Childhood Education

All states and territories have committed to moving to 15 hours of early childhood education for children in the year before school through a National Partnership on Early

Childhood Education with the Commonwealth Government, to be implemented by 2013.

The National Partnership was signed in December 2008 with the aim that:

- By 2013 every child will have access to a preschool program in the 12 months prior to full-time schooling.
- The preschool program is to be delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher, in accordance with a national early years learning framework, for 15 hours a week, 40 weeks a year.
- The program will be accessible across a diversity of settings, in a form that meets the needs of parents and in a manner that ensures cost does not present a barrier to access.

Under this program, a 15 hour kindergarten program delivered by a qualified early childhood teacher will be available in long day care centres, community kindergartens, schools, children's hubs and other early childhood settings.

Hours are being increased because of the proven benefits of early childhood education for children. These include improvements in children's learning, health and behaviour that continue into adulthood.

Department of Human Services - Office for Youth

Similar to that at the Federal level, the Department of Human Services', the Office for Youth is the key agency driving a whole-of-government agenda in relation to Victorians aged 12 to 25. It is responsible for policy advice, research and strategic planning relating to government policies, programs and service delivery for young Victorians. It is also responsible for providing opportunities and channels for young people's opinions to be considered by government.

Youth Statement – Engage, Involve, Create

Engage, Involve, Create outlines the Victorian Government's vision for all Victorian young people. The Government's vision is that all young Victorians experience healthy, active and fulfilling lives and have the opportunity to:

- Be engaged in education and/or employment
- Be involved in their communities and decisions that affect them
- Create change, enterprise and culture.

To achieve this, the government has identified three priority areas:

- Getting young people involved
- Services that meet the needs of young people
- Creating new ideas and partnerships.

Western Metropolitan Region

WynBay Local Learning and Employment Network (LLEN)

The WynBay LLEN is an independent association of stakeholders dedicated to the education, training and employment of young people aged 10 to 19 years in Wyndham and Hobsons Bay.

Established in 2001, it is a not for profit body funded by the Victorian Government to support the objective that 94 per cent of all young people achieve year 12 or equivalent by 2015 and to act as a regional strategic body bringing relevant partners together to improve the education, training and employment outcomes of young people in the region.

WynBay LLEN is part of a network of 31 LLEN's across Victoria.

Hobsons Bay City Council Policies

The Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017

The Community Health and Wellbeing Plan sets out the broad vision about what both the community and Council want to see for Hobsons Bay.

The vision is:

Valuing the wellbeing of our people and our place, now and into the future:

A safe, clean, accessible and connected municipality, which values diversity, protects its heritage and environment, fosters a strong sense of community and provides opportunities to achieve the best possible health and wellbeing.

A place that people are proud to call home.

This plan informs the Council Plan and consequently other organisational strategies, plans and services.

The Council Plan 2013-2017

The purpose of the Council Plan is to guide the Council's direction, priorities, and decisions. It drives the development of the budget and other specific strategies, as well as the organisational structure including department business plans, individual staff work plans and resources.

The Municipal Strategic Statement

The Municipal Strategic Statement sets out the vision, objectives and strategies for managing land use change and development within the municipality. It provides the basis for the application of local policies, zones, overlays

and other provisions in the Hobsons Bay Planning Scheme.

The Children's Plan (Municipal Early Years Plan) 2009 - 2013

The Children's Plan 2009-2013 (the Plan) articulates the Council's role in service and infrastructure provision, planning, advocacy and community development for children under eight years of age and their families. The plan was developed in consultation with families, service providers and children.

The Plan allows for the Council to take a Whole of Council approach via the development of annual action plans which articulate each department's work towards achieving the goals and objectives of the Plan which include:

- Safe and Accessible Places and Spaces
- An Informed, Caring and Inclusive Community
- A Great Start for Every Child
- Quality Services and Facilities

The next section of this paper discusses the progress of the current Children's Plan and its effectiveness in achieving improvements for children and their families.

Youth Strategic Plan 2009 - 2013

The Council developed an integrated Youth Strategic Plan 2009-2013 to not only support the needs of young people with timely interventions but also to capture young people's unique abilities to contribute to the community. This body of work has been the culmination of demographical and policy analysis, as well as consultation with residents and community organisations.

The Youth Strategic Plan guides the Council's work towards ensuring young people in Hobsons Bay are valued, supported and

championed to achieve their full potential. The Youth Strategic Plan works towards achieving the goals and objectives of the Plan which include:

- Leadership and Coordination
- Spaces and Places
- Connection and Participation
- Transitions: Learning and Working
- Health and Wellbeing

The next section of this paper discusses the progress of the current Youth Strategic Plan and its effectiveness in achieving improvements for young people.

Hobsons Bay's Children and Youth Services

Hobsons Bay City Council provides a range of services children and young people including:

For Children:

Maternal and Child Health – is a family-centred, primary health service that has a strong focus on promotion, prevention, early detection and intervention to improve health and developmental outcomes for young children and their families.

Playgroups – provides parents and caregivers with the opportunity to meet new people, gain support and share ideas. They allow babies, toddlers and preschoolers to socialise as they play and learn together.

Child Care Services – operates two Child Care Services providing long day care to families in the community. Dedicated staff plan and implement a program with emphasis based on a warm, secure homelike environment that allows each child to develop to their maximum potential.

Family day Care (Home Based Child Care) – Family day care is professionally coordinated childcare and education service that provides

group care for children between birth to 12 years old in a home environment.

Occasional Care – occasional care for all families of Hobsons Bay who require care for a child under six years of age.

Toy Library – gives families the opportunity to borrow high quality play equipment that helps in the education of young children.

3 Year Old Kindergarten – these programs provide exciting and challenging experiences for children aged from three years of age.

4 Year Old Kindergarten – the Council provides a central enrolment service for four year old kindergarten programs in Hobsons Bay. Kindergarten is a program for children in the year prior to starting primary school. Kindergarten aims to provide a quality program based on play, enabling children to develop social, emotional, cognitive and physical skills which in turn will prepare them for their educational life.

Support for Children with Additional Needs

Home and Community Care (HACC) program – Assessment and care management and In-home support assists eligible residents with disabilities to remain active in their community. It provides practical support through encouragement and when required assistance to maintain and develop skills for independent living. The type of services provided may include:

- Domestic assistance
- Preparing meals
- Shopping
- Transport to local medical appointments
- Personal support such as showering, sponge washing and dressing
- Respite including in-home and access to the community
- Prompting of medication

Preschool Field Officer – role is to support the inclusion of children with additional needs into state funded Kindergarten services. The Preschool Field Officer has extensive experience in early childhood development and

special education with a background in kindergarten teaching.

For Young People:

Youth Services – Youth Services run a broad range of recreational activities for young people in Hobsons Bay. These activities include four school holiday programs, two drop in centres and one craft'a'noons weekly session. They also provide support and execution of special events such as fun run festivals, national youth week events and outdoor excursions like Skate/BMX/Scooter competitions.

Counselling for young people – Hobsons Bay Youth Counselling Service providers short to medium generalist counselling for young people aged between 12 and 15 years, who live, work or study in Hobsons Bay.

Skill development and youth participation – These programs offer young people an opportunity to be involved in the community while gaining practical skills.

Support for young people – Hobsons Bay Youth Services provides a range of support based programs and services to young people.

School Focused Youth Service – Aims to develop an integrated response for young people at risk who require support and intervention.

Young people with disabilities – Youth services offers recreational programs for young people aged 12 to 25 with disabilities.

In response to a lack of youth services located in Hobsons Bay, Youth Services provide professional development programs for parents, teachers and workers in order to build the capacity of the community to support our young people.

Evaluation

Evaluation of the Council's Children and Youth Plans

The Hobsons Bay City Council has so far had two Children's Plans and two Youth Plans aimed at providing our children with the best possible start to life, and encouraging young people to make positive contributions to the community.

Children's Plan (Municipal Early Years Plan)

Hobsons Bay City Council Municipal Early Years Plan 2005-2008

In 2005, the Hobsons Bay City Council developed its first Municipal Early Years Plan (MEYP). The vision of this plan was to:

Increase support for young children and their families, enable ease of access to services and improve service integration and collaboration.

For early years service users and providers across the municipality, the MEYP aimed to:

- Highlight key local education, care and health issues and provide a realistic plan to address them
- Set a clear, strategic local direction
- Support beneficial partnerships and networks
- Promote linkages across Council, families and the community
- Enable a more integrated approach to service provision

Key achievements of the MEYP 2005- 2008 included:

- The completion and opening of the Laverton Community Children's Centre in February 2007.

- The establishment of a number of supported playgroups within the municipality through the appointment of the Family Resource and Development Officer.
- The creation of the Family and Children in Hobsons Bay newsletter providing important information to families.
- Increased opportunities for improving children's health through the Kids – 'Go For Your Life' (KGFYL) program.

In 2007 an evaluation review of this plan was carried out which concluded that the plan was successful in highlighting the ongoing drive of the yearly years team for working towards best practice service provision. However, the review also noted that further work needed to occur across the Council to ensure other relevant departments were engaging and working towards outcomes for children.

A shortfall of the 2005-2008 MEYP and Action Plan included the lack of particular goals, and reporting mechanisms which making it difficult to further analyse and evaluate achievements.

A copy of the audit report relating to the 2005 – 2008 Municipal Early Years Plan is available by contacting the Social Planning and Development unit at the Hobsons Bay City Council.

The Children's Plan (Municipal Early Years Plan) 2009-2013

The Children's Plan (the Plan) articulated the Council's role in service and infrastructure

provision, planning, advocacy and community development for children less than eight years of age and their families. The Plan was developed in consultation with families, service providers and children.

Below is an analysis of the 2009-2013 Children's plan. For further detail see Appendix 1. The plan consisted of four goal areas as follows.

Goal 1: Safe and Accessible Places and Spaces

→ Children and families in Hobsons Bay will benefit from safe, accessible and attractive built and natural spaces.

The Council's libraries have led the way in aiming for the inclusion of children within the development of the Williamstown library including employing a specialist children's designer.

Whilst the Council has seen various achievements within this goal area, they are primarily aimed at ensuring that Council continues to upgrade and maintain its early years facilities, play spaces and open spaces.

Despite this, only a few opportunities were created over the last four years for children and their families to be consulted about the spaces and places that been redeveloped or designed. Further little evidence has suggested that feedback from children and their families and young people has been incorporated into the planning of new spaces and places.

During the term of this plan, minimal actions were identified for working towards the creation of safer neighbourhoods. As plans for key strategic redevelopment sites begin to be drafted the Council should ensure these developments consider children particularly in relation to encouraging active transportation.

Goal 2: An informed, Caring and Inclusive Community

→ The Council will work to support and encourage the participation of children and families in community life.

Over the term of the plan, the Council's Arts, Events and Tourism unit and Family Youth and Children's department have focused on increasing programming and activities for children and families.

Arts, Events and Tourism have ensured that their events are welcoming of children and that shows are on at times which are conducive for families. This has seen subsequent shows having more than 1000 people attending of which a high proportion of the audiences have been children.

The Arts, Events and Tourism unit have also formed key partnerships to implement community arts programs including the highly successful "Crashendo." Crashendo is an intensive after hours, orchestra and instrument music program. It provides a free instrument for each child. It is non selective and works on the basis that the best way to become a musician is to be a musician, to learn on the job, to learn by doing, and refining as you go. It has no auditions, no examinations and is about positive encouragement in music making. It is also inclusive of any child who wishes to join.

The Family Youth and Children's department have led the way in developing and providing a variety of playgroups for families within Hobsons Bay. These have included supported playgroups for children from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds, children with developmental delays and autism. This has contributed greatly to raising the awareness of the value of play in enhancing children's learning and development.

Maternal and Child Health have delivered new parent support groups and which particularly aimed to encourage participation of fathers.

Despite these achievements, the provision of information in alternative formats particularly for newly arrived residents from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds has not really increased.

A new children's plan will therefore need to continue to work towards ensuring that those families who may have additional barriers to participation including those from CALD backgrounds, or those families with parents or children with disabilities and those families from low socio-economic backgrounds are engaged and are able to participate in the services and programs available for them.

Goal 3: A Great Start for Every Child

→ Maximize the potential of every child by working together to support their health, wellbeing and development during the early years.

This goal has primarily focused on access to nutritional food for children with successful programs including a food security project which supported Laverton P-12 College to implement a range of initiatives to increase student fruit consumption. Also both of the Council's long day childcare centres have been accredited with the Start Right Eat Right program, an award based program which recognises best practice in nutrition for children attending long day childcare.

The libraries have also implemented additional programs to assist with children's development including 'Libraries on Location' which has increased people's ability to access the library in non-conventional spaces such as parks. Further the libraries together with children's services have worked together to ensure

playgroups and kindergartens have access to books through a roving library collection.

In order to foster collaboration and partnership between early years services and agencies, the early years team has also developed a consolidated annual training calendar for early years professionals and staff that has provided a variety of opportunities for increases in professional development which in turn has created a culture of working together towards the health, wellbeing and development of children.

As part of the Laverton community renewal project there was an emphasis on children and the early years. A number of key projects including diverse playgroups and support for a range of families were initiated. Due to the funding of this project finishing up, the Council needs to ensure these families (and others who are the most vulnerable within the municipality) continue to have access to the supports they need.

Goal 4: Quality Services and Facilities

→ Children and families in Hobsons Bay will have access to a broad range of quality services and social supports.

This goal area has been heavily driven and influenced over the four years by the Council of Australian Government's (COAG) Early Years Reform agenda. This has required the Council to be involved in the implementation of these changes across its services including the analysis and implementation of universal access requirements (15 hours of kindergarten), an Early Years forum to outline the proposed national Quality Standards and an additional audit of all the Council's community facilities to explore the functionality and appropriateness of these spaces for future use.

There is also further opportunity for the Council to explore how it engages with children and their families across a range of Council business areas, not only to provide opportunities for children to contribute to the local community but also to expose children and their families to the Council and its broad role.

Currently the Council is investigating local government models for implementing Child Friendly Cities (CFC) and Age Friendly Cities (AFC) including principles of both individually, combined principles and the benefits and limitations of implementing either or both for Hobsons Bay City Council. This piece of work will provide further evidence and make clear opportunities for embedding not only CFC but also AFC so that Council not only provides services for all its' community members but also empowers, is inclusive, listens and allows for active participation across all generations.

Youth Strategic Plan

Hobsons Bay City Council Youth Policy and Action Plan 2004 - 2007

In 2004 the Council developed its first Youth Policy and Action Plan. The vision of the Youth Policy was:

The City of Hobsons Bay is recognised as a place where young people are valued, supported and respected as residents of our local community. The City welcomes and encourages young people to participate in community life and acknowledges the diversity and richness young people bring to a community. The City of Hobsons Bay will be a place where young people feel safe, healthy and proud to live.

Through this policy, the Council aimed to:

ensure that local young people have access to the best possible support and resources to meet their needs, and that they are valued for the contribution they make to the Hobsons Bay community.

The Youth Policy and Action Plan articulated Council's role in the planning and delivery of services for young people. Council's role is defined under three goal areas:

- **Service planning and provision**—to facilitate the development of improved youth service planning and provision within the municipality.
- **Advocacy**—to advocate to all levels of government the need for increased services within the municipality to provide for a 'better deal' for local young people.
- **Partnerships**—to develop key partnerships with relevant providers across the municipality and the Western Region of Melbourne to improve opportunities for local young people.

A shortfall of the 2004-2007 Youth Policy and Action Plan was its service provision focus. Although the plan provided an opportunity for

the Youth Services unit together with the Youth Planner to work on issues, it did not manage to engage other parts of the Council to ensure a whole of Council response for young people.

A further shortfall of the 2004-2007 Youth Policy and Action Plan included the lack of particular goals, and reporting mechanisms making it difficult to further analyse and evaluate achievements.

A review/audit report for this plan is not available.

Hobsons Bay City Council Youth Strategic Plan 2009-2013

The Youth Strategic Plan 2009-2013 was developed to not only support the needs of young people with timely interventions, but also to capture young people's unique abilities to contribute to the community.

The Youth Strategic Plan 2009-2013 guided the Council's work towards ensuring young people in Hobsons Bay are valued, supported and championed to achieve their full potential.

The plan consisted of five goal areas as follows.

Goal 1: Leadership and Coordination

→ Hobsons Bay City Council is uniquely placed to provide support for an integrated youth support system and a platform to advocate for a 'better deal' for young people.

Whilst the Council has seen various achievements within this goal area, they have been lead predominately by the Youth Services team and relate to recognising and promoting the capacity of young people as well as engaging young people.

Achievements have included the development of "the Guide" as an information and referral tool for the sector, a number of young people being awarded and recognized for their contributions to the municipality, and the

delivery of a range of programs and information including Mental Health First Aid, e newsletters and e bulletins and consultation programs including a youth forum.

Further the Youth Services team has evolved the way they engage young people in their programs and planning and have therefore been able to embed the PROUD program for same sex attracted residents, engage with young people from diverse backgrounds to participate in a number of different groups and committees and strengthen existing young people's skills in these groups including training and induction programs.

As such, the Council's next plan should continue to explore more broadly how different Council business areas engage with young people meaningfully on a range of issues/projects of relevance.

Further there continues to be gaps within the youth service system within the municipality which need to be addressed including access to mental health services, which despite continued advocacy during the term of this plan are still not adequately addressed.

Goal 2: Spaces and Places

→ Hobsons Bay City Council acknowledges that young people interact within the community in a range of diverse and culturally specific ways that are relevant to their life stage.

The main aims of this goal area were to include young people in urban design planning, increase the provision of locations that are accessible and responsive to the needs of young people and advocate for a transport system that is responsive to the needs of young people.

The work undertaken during the life of the plan in relation to this role has primarily focused on delivery of a range of programs for young people from a variety of locations including the libraries and neighbourhood houses. It has also seen the establishment of a new drop in centre at Altona Meadows.

In terms of engaging young people in urban design frameworks and facility planning throughout the municipality, this was primarily confined to projects related directly to young people including consultation with young people for the Play Space Strategy and Sport and Recreation Strategy as well as initial discussions regarding a Newport youth, library and seniors facility.

In relation to public transport, this is an issue that doesn't only affect young people and as such the advocacy undertaken by the Council has been broader to include all users of public transport and those particularly affected which also include people with disabilities and older people.

Goal 3: Connection and Participation

→ Hobsons Bay City Council acknowledges that a sense of belonging and connection to the community (e.g. peers, neighbourhood, and family) is vital for young people's resilience, self esteem and potential to develop life skills.

The main aims of this goal area were to facilitate projects that foster youth participation through leadership and brokerage opportunities.

The main drivers of the achievements within the goal area were the Youth Services unit which delivered a range of National Youth Week activities and supported projects for same sex attracted young people.

A suite of support for young people in culture and arts program has also included: Lost in Transit and St Martins Youth Theatre running classes at the Substation.

Many of the achievements included in this area relate to the core business of the Youth Services unit. As such, a future plan should build in more achievable objectives in order to be able to better evaluate and measure change.

Goal 4: Transitions: Learning and Working

→ Hobsons Bay City Council acknowledges that the period between adolescence and adulthood involves a series of unique, complex and sometimes challenging transitions.

The main aim of this goal area is to ensure young people are supported during major transitions and to support and advocate for employment and education opportunities for young people.

Council's Youth Services team has driven a number of programs to support transition times including a wide range of transitions programs for Grade Six students as they enter into secondary school.

A major achievement of the Youth Strategy has been the introduction of the SEED project in Hobsons Bay and development of four apprenticeships/traineeships within the Council which are currently being led by the Human Performance department.

The Youth Services unit also supports psychology student placements which not only provides opportunities for young people studying but which also boost the unit's capacity to meet unmet need in relation to youth mental health services.

The libraries have established an online tutoring program which has had strong uptake from the community

Despite these great achievements, the Council is limited in its capacity to influence education and employment opportunities for young people. Hobsons Bay continues to have a high youth disengagement rate and broader action is required to tackle this issue.

Goal 5: Health and Wellbeing

→ Hobsons Bay City Council acknowledges that in order for young people to reach their full potential, they require access to appropriate health and wellbeing services.

The issue of access to appropriate health services in Hobsons Bay does not only affect young people. As such, the Council has spent a significant amount of time in advocating for health services across the municipality.

The Youth Services unit has driven the actions within this goal area in particular relating to youth mental health issues. Through the provision of a range of workshops, seminars and forums, the Youth Services unit has addressed a need which had not been previously addressed in the municipality.

The overwhelming response received to all these awareness raising and information provision sessions (including Youth Suicide Parent Workshop, a number of parenting seminars, a youth mentoring program and a number of support programs) is proof that not only was the content and delivery needed, but that nothing else like this is being offered readily by any other organisation within Hobsons Bay.

In light of this, whilst other providers don't fill this void, a future policy together with specific

service planning needs to ensure adequate resourcing of the Youth Services unit to ensure this line of programming is a sustainable area of core business alongside adequate counseling resources.

Commonalities between the Council's Children's Plan and the Council's Youth Strategic Plan

Although currently both the Children's Plan and the Youth Strategic Plan are run as separate policies the evaluation process has demonstrated that there are a number of commonalities in relation to the intent of both plans including that both aim to:

- increase health and wellbeing outcomes
- encourage socially isolated or disadvantaged residents to participate and have access to support required
- increase consultation with young people and children and their families across the whole of Council
- improve the current level of Council service provision and programming
- advocate for better services and support.

As such, interestingly the shortfalls of both plans tend to be similar including that both plans did not manage to achieve a high level of whole of council action or response.

The majority of actions and work undertaken during the life of these plans fell to the department with the responsibility for youth and children that is the Family Youth and Children's department. In particular in the case of the Youth Strategic Plan, the Youth Services unit undertook the bulk of the work for the plan.

Furthermore, both plans lacked measurable objectives and goals which made assessing the actual change made by these plans at the community level very difficult, primarily given that the majority of actions identified were for the most part seen as core business for the department's and units undertaking the work.

Lastly, some of issues identified within these plans, primarily access to health services, public transport and concerns regarding urban design are issues which cut across many target groups. These issues are often complex to solve and require work across many Council business units. However once solved, they benefit many target groups and as such these issues should be considered within a broader strategic document such as the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan and the Municipal Strategic Statement (where possible).

Community Consultation

Community Consultation Results

To inform the development of the Council's next Children and Youth Plans a range of consultation activities were undertaken.

Essential to the development of the Children and Young People's Plan was engaging with children and young people to find out what they like, value and need for their future health and wellbeing. Surveys, voxpops and focus groups were held with children, young people, parents, carers, schools and service providers. In total more than 900 people were consulted.

The community consultation was based on the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The results of the consultation are presented here.

What do you like and value most about Hobsons Bay?

The consultation highlighted that children, young people, parents and carers unanimously agree that parks and recreational space (including swimming pools) are essential to the wellbeing of all community members and like their proximity. In addition children and young people expressed the high value they place on family and friendships, especially local opportunities to socialise and play together; equally enjoying the friendliness and community feel of Hobsons Bay. People also liked how peaceful safe and quiet the municipality is.

What improvements could be made in Hobsons Bay?

Whilst those consulted were generally happy in Hobsons Bay they identified a number of areas for improvement. Children indicated that they would like the opportunity to increase friendships with their neighbours.

Children, young people, parents, carers and service providers all spoke of the limitations of the public transport service and integrated transport opportunities in Hobsons Bay. This is of particular importance to young people as it is their primary means of transportation.

Improvements to parks, facilities and services that welcome and cater for all age groups was also indicated as a need for improvement, especially to ensure services are accessible and meet the needs of children and young people.

What do children and young people need for their future?

To provide the best possible future for our children and young people accessible learning opportunities for all ages and abilities need to be available on. In addition local employment opportunities need to be capitalised and inclusion of young people to help secure successful futures.

Integrated transport solutions to ensure children, young people and their families can move around and beyond Hobsons Bay accessing the services and facilities they need for a fulfilled and healthy life.

Health and wellbeing services that are accessible and meet the needs of children and young people, including mental health provision for young people and outreach maternal child health nurses for children and their parents.

A socially inclusive society that fosters a sense of belonging and allows children and young people to feel safe; making friends with a diverse range of people who live, work and recreate locally.

The provision of places and spaces that are welcoming to a variety of age groups, allowing families to spend time together and be equally engaged. Building play into the fabric of our community to help ensure children and young people feel valued and included.

What should the Council work on for children and young people over the next four years?

Overall, the top five aspects for the Council to focus their work on between 2014 and 2018 include:

- Maintaining and improving parks, opens spaces and facilities that meet the needs of children and young people;
- Considering and engaging children and young people in the Council's decisions making processes;
- Advocating for accessible health and wellbeing services and programs for children and young people;
- Advocating for improved public transport; and
- Strengthening learning and play opportunities within the Council's programs, infrastructure, facilities and services.

Further detail can be found In the Children and Young People's Plan Community Consultation Report at www.hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

Recommendations

Recommendations

Despite significant achievements, there is still a need for the Council to continue to work on acknowledging, empowering and providing quality services for children and young people.

It is evident upon review of the Council's two Children's Plans and two Youth Strategic Plans that progress has been made towards acknowledging, empowering and providing quality services for children and young people.

Based on the discussion contained in this background paper the following recommendations are provided for a future Children and Youth plan for the Council.

Recommendation 1

Combine the Children and Youth Plans and ensure both cohorts are a priority in the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan (CHWP) currently being developed for 2013. For children the CHWP should highlight the importance of the early years in influencing future adult health and life outcomes. Likewise the CHWP should also highlight the importance of support and guidance in adolescence to ensure young people are on a path to achieving their goals. In relation to young people, the CHWP will also tackle the overarching issue of mental health, employment and training/education opportunities (youth disengagement), access to transport and affordable housing.

Recommendation 2

Make sure the combined plan encompasses the age gap of eight to 11 that currently exists and has an overarching focus on the inclusion and participation of children and young people across the Council.

Recommendation 3

The combined plan should clearly articulate four cohorts:

- *Early years (0- four years)*
- *Primary School (five– 11 years)*
- *Secondary School (12-18 years)*
- *Young Adults (19-25 years)*

Recommendation 4

Ensure the combined plan emphasises the unique and differing strategies involved in working with these differing cohorts

Recommendation 5

The new plan works in a more focused way on areas of disadvantage. Particularly focuses on vulnerable children and young people who tend to live within these disadvantaged areas (Laverton, Altona North and Altona Meadows).

Recommendation 6

Ensure specific cohort issues and opportunities for development should be highlighted through the combined plan. Including:

- *For children*
 - *DMFT for children across the municipality*
 - *decreasing developmental vulnerability*

- *increasing intake of fresh fruit and vegetables in diets*
- *increasing the likelihood to undertake the required amounts of physical activity*
- *increasing participation in MCH or early years education such as kindergarten*

- *For Young People:*

- *Decreasing waiting lists for mental health services*
- *Increasing high school completion and lowering the rate of disengagement from paid work or education*
- *Increasing adoption of safe sun behaviours and of twice daily teeth brushing*
- *Decrease in alcohol related hospitalisations for young people in Hobsons Bay in comparison to the NWMR and Victoria.*

Recommendation 7

The new children and youth plans should capture intergenerational equity for the environment. This would need to ensure linkages both to and from other Council environment policies. As children and young people are targets for behavior change programs and ultimately will need to tackle issues handed to them from the current generation.

Recommendation 8

Ensure other areas of the Council, in particular Arts and Culture and Recreation are highlighted and supported as critical environments for engaging and working with children and their families and young people.

Recommendation 9

The Council's new children and youth plans should include an evaluation framework from the outset and the progress of the plan should be reported not only to the Council, but back to our community including children and young people themselves.

Recommendation 10

Critical to the effectiveness of the combined Children and Youth Plan is service planning. Service planning should cascade out of the combined Children and Youth Plan to highlight service provision and staffing gaps and to begin to address these issues

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Appendix

Achievements of the Children's Plan 2009 – 2013

	Year 1 2009-2010	Year 2 2010-2011	Year 3 2011-2012	Year 4 2012-2013
Number of Actions	61	50	44	
Overall status of performance over that year	47% (29) completed 26% (16) progressing 18% (11) ongoing 7% (4) deferred 2% (1) not started	28% (14) completed 32% (16) progressing 16% (8) ongoing 2% (1) deferred 22% (11) not started	34% (15) completed 43% (19) progressing 16% (7) ongoing 7% (3) deferred 0% (0) not started	
<p>Goal 1: Safe and accessible places and spaces: Children and families in Hobsons Bay will benefit from safe, accessible and attractive built and natural spaces.</p> <p>The Children's Plan recognises that the Council has a role to play in ensuring children can access places and spaces where they can experience nature and other fun activities alongside their families.</p> <p>Under this goal, the Council agreed to work towards the following four objectives:</p> <p>1.1 Create, maintain and improve attractive playgrounds and open spaces which promote exciting opportunities for children to play and experience nature safely.</p> <p>1.2 Future urban design will take into account the need to encourage children and families to move about the municipality using active transportation methods (e.g. walking and cycling).</p> <p>1.3 Ensure Council infrastructure is planned and built to enhance safety and accessibility.</p> <p>1.4 Take a lead role in fostering a sense of community which encourages the creation of safe neighbourhoods.</p>	<p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cherry Lake is being developed to include more accessible facilities and infrastructure. A sensory garden design was completed and adopted by the Council with construction due to commence in August 2010. • A detailed design for the redevelopment of the Williamstown Library has been completed and a specialist children's designer was employed by the architect to provide input into the children's areas for safety, access and creating a stimulating environment for children. 	<p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cherry Lake redevelopment has been completed with a newly designed sensory garden constructed • Actions in the Road Safety Strategy 2008-2010 have been implemented, including a major campaign to introduce the "Looking After Our Mate" responsible alcohol program to Hobsons Bay Sporting Clubs • The practice of incorporating a continuous path of travel to the main entrance of all new and redeveloped Council buildings has been adopted • The works to expand the babies' room at the Range Children's Centre in Williamstown have been completed 	<p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design works have commenced on the McCormack Park Playground which coincides with receiving funding from the DPCD to undertake creek central recreation zone improvements. • Actions in the Road Safety Strategy 2008-2010 have been implemented, including a 40kph area in Pier Street, Altona • Construction of the new kindergarten/multipurpose room at Seabrook Community Centre and the extension of Russell Court Kindergarten have been completed. • Completed concept plan and community consultation occurred for accessibility works at Edwards Reserve. This project has now moved to a detailed design phase. 	
	<p>Actions That Could Be Further Explored and/or That Are Still Relevant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A feasibility study will be undertaken and a master plan will be developed for proposed changes to the Cooraminta Kindergarten and Maternal Child Health Centre. • Detail design phase to be completed at Edwards Reserve, Spotswood. • Commence construction of the Newport Gardens Early Years Centre 			

Goal 2: An informed, caring and inclusive community: The Council will work to support and encourage the participation of children and families in community life.

Connecting with their community and belonging within their neighbourhood are very important aspects of a child's development. Providing spaces for socialising and information in alternative formats is essential for children and families, especially those from overseas, to feel included in their community.

Under this goal, the Council agreed to work towards the following four objectives:

- 2.1 The Council will work to promote children as equal citizens in the community.**
- 2.2 Encourage opportunities for children and families to participate in events and activities that embrace the diversity of the Hobsons Bay community.**
- 2.3 Establish and maintain communication pathways that provide information in alternative formats, languages and at key service points across the municipality.**
- 2.4 Establish links and partnerships with relevant external service providers, businesses and community groups, to promote social connections for parents and carers.**

Achievements

- School holiday programs have been extended to the new Altona North Community Library. All events for children were very well patronised including a performance in April attended by 120 people. Over 30 people regularly attend storytime and rhymetime.
- Supported playgroups have been developed for children from CALD backgrounds and for those with developmental delays and autism.

Achievements

- The Arts and Culture Plan 2010-2015 has been adopted by Council
- A partnership between the Council, Victoria Police, Altona North and Laverton P-12 Colleges and Sistema has been developed to implement a music program at Laverton P-12 College. The program engages primary school students in an after hours classical music program and includes the supply of all instruments

Achievements

- Hobsons Bay City Council performing arts program Arts at your doorstep included a program genre "children and family." Subsequently more than 1000 people, mostly children, parents and grandparents attended 2 shows of "Happy Birthday Peter Rabbit at the Williamstown Town Hall in May.
- Hobsons Bay City Council funded the Crashendo program in partnership with Victoria Police, Laverton P-12 College and Sistema Australia. The program has had many successful outcomes over the last financial year including; a high retention of children participating, the program and children highlighted in ABC's Limelight Magazine and the Saturday Age; and Families have been celebrating the achievement of their children together at the end of each term.
- Maternal and Child Health commenced new parent support groups in Newport and Williamstown that encouraged fathers joining,
- A partnership between the Council's Libraries and Victoria University has developed Kinda Kinder which explored pre-literacy skills for 0-6 year olds through play based activities.

	<p>Actions That Could Be Further Explored and/or That Are Still Relevant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maternal and Child Health Nurses to be involved in a research project in 2012 with the aim of reducing the 6 month postpartum incidence of depression, anxiety and adjustment disorders in first time mothers in the form of facilitated parent groups for couples. • In conjunction with Ride to Work Day, implement a "Ride to Care Week" encouraging families to ride bikes or walk to childcare during October • Opportunities to extend the Libraries Story Time to be more accessible to a range of parents and children and include technology 		
<p>Goal 3: A great start for every child: Maximise the potential of every child by working together to support their health, wellbeing and development during the early years.</p> <p>Providing the best start to a child's life involves providing the basics of an unpolluted environment, the best possible care and health services, healthy food options, opportunities for physical activity and safe places to play, grow and experience the world around them. The collaboration of service providers is important to maximise these opportunities.</p> <p>Under this goal, the Council agreed to work towards the following four objectives:</p> <p>3.1 Raise awareness of the value of play in enhancing a child's learning and creativity and advocate for a range of affordable, educational, active and creative play activities in the municipality.</p> <p>3.2 Assist families to have access to information that enables them to incorporate educational experiences, exercise and healthy food choices into their children's lives.</p> <p>3.3 The Council will lead by example to encourage healthy eating practices within schools and across children's services and programs within the municipality.</p> <p>3.4 Utilise the Council's role as a direct service provider and its links to other agencies to foster and advocate for safe and supportive family environments for children.</p>	<p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Libraries on Location program commenced with five sessions during the 2009/2010 financial year. The program generated a lot of interest and new memberships for library branches. • A Food Security Project Officer commenced in October 2009. Achievements include: "Community Connect" pilot project that enables an ongoing source of food for three community organisations; an increase in the number of volunteers with food handling qualifications in food programs; and supporting Laverton P-12 College to implement a range of initiatives to increase student fruit consumption. • Both of the Council's long day childcare centres are currently accredited with the Start Right Eat Right program. This is an award program funded by DHS which recognises best practice in nutrition for children attending long day childcare. 	<p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Kinda Kinder program has been implemented at Laverton P-12 College. Kinda Kinder is aimed at children close to school age and provides a free one to two hour learning experience in an inviting environment. The program values the importance of literacy and numeracy development in young children and gives them the opportunity to develop social skills by learning in a larger group • Two food security projects commenced which facilitated the distribution of surplus food to groups including seniors, newly arrived families and residents of two housing estates. Both projects are being managed by community organisations with limited support from Council 	<p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A working group coordinated the development of an annual training calendar for early year's professionals and staff. • The Council's Libraries worked in partnership with Deakin University to run parent nutrition programs at both Altona Meadows and Altona North
	<p>Actions That Could Be Further Explored and/or That Are Still Relevant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work across the Council to broaden the successful training calendar aimed at parent and early years professionals • Work across the Council to broaden the roving book program to supported playgroups and kindergartens • Complete the transition to sustainability of key project and programs for the Laverton Early Years Strategy 		

Goal 4: Quality Services and Facilities: Children and families in Hobsons Bay will have access to a broad range of quality services, facilities and social supports.

The Council has long been a principal provider of a range of early childhood services. Recent Federal and State policy shifts are influencing how these services are provided with a move towards integrating early childhood education and childcare. With the introduction of community hubs as a model for service delivery, the Plan provides the driver for developing partnerships with key stakeholders to ensure that the Council's service models are adaptive to the changing needs of children and families in the municipality.

Under this goal, the Council agreed to work towards the following four objectives:

- 4.1 Develop and maintain partnerships with all levels of government, schools and service providers to ensure an integrated approach to service delivery.**
- 4.2 Advocate for high quality, locally based services, education, care and support that meet the needs of families and children in Hobsons Bay.**
- 4.3 The Council will plan, review and provide services in consultation with children, families and other key stakeholders.**
- 4.4 The Council will actively build Child Friendly Cities principles into its services and processes.**

Achievements

- As part of the Neighbourhood House Strategic Plan 2008-2012, working relationships were established with NMIT to successfully deliver an accredited retail training program at Seabrook Community Centre.
- A consultant has prepared a report detailing how facilities are positioned to meet universal access requirements (15 hours of kindergarten). The implications of this report were analysed and this information provided to relevant officers within Council for future planning.

Achievements

- The Family Youth and Children's Services department delivered an Early Years forum in June 2011 attended by over 100 early childhood professionals to outline the proposed National Quality Standards, part of the Council of Australian Government's (COAG) Early Years Reform agenda
- Work to develop an evaluation framework is currently taking place to assist with evaluating how well actions in the Council's Social Policies are working towards the achievement of policy objectives

Achievements

- The Family Youth and Children's Services department implemented the Council of Australian Government's (COAG) Early Years Reform agenda
- The Council has audited all of its facilities and looked at their functionality with a view to completing a Community Services and Infrastructure Plan .

Actions That Could Be Further Explored and/or That Are Still Relevant

- A discussion paper will be developed which articulates the Council's role in implementing Child Friendly Cities principles.
- Calculated Risk- The Childcare services team have identified an opportunity to explore facilitated safe risk taking within child care settings that aligns with the National Quality Framework. The framework promotes children being confident and involved learners and promoting skill development.
- Outdoor Play – The Childcare services team has also identified an opportunity to improve quality of the outdoor program provided and make sure children are offered regular opportunities to play outdoors.
- Commence evaluation of the Children's Plan through development of a discussion paper and recommendations for a new plan.
- Ensure that children are included in the development of core recreation projects.

Achievements of the Youth Strategic Plan 2009 – 2013

	Year 1 2009-2010	Year 2 2010-2011	Year 3 2011-2012	Year 4 2012-2013
Number of Actions	78	65	49	
Overall status of performance over that year	66% (51) completed 23% (18) progressing 6% (5) ongoing 5% (4) deferred % (19) 0% (0) not started	57% (37) completed 14% (9) progressing 11% (7) ongoing 11% (7) deferred 7% (5) not started	58% (28) completed 28% (10) progressing 11% (10) ongoing 3% (1) deferred 0% (0) not started	
Goal 1 Leadership and Coordination:	Achievements	Achievements	Achievements	
<p>Hobsons Bay City Council is uniquely placed to provide support for an integrated youth support system and a platform to advocate for a 'better deal' for young people</p> <p>An important theme raised by young people was that they felt the Council had an important role in improving the image of young people in the local community. As a provider of youth-specific services to the municipality it is important that the Council understands the needs, and is able to communicate effectively with young people.</p> <p>Under this goal, the Council and its partner organisations agreed to work towards six objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategically plan for the development of a responsive and accessible youth service system within the municipality by building and maintaining effective networks. • Advocate for more services in the municipality based on need, emerging trends and/or demographic analysis. • Inform local, regional and state 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council lead and participated in a range of youth related networks including the Hobsons Bay Youth Network, Western FReeza Network, Rainbow Network, and Disability Network • Continuation of resourcing for the Youth Voice Committee with particular focus on ensuring representation on the Committee is made up of young people from diverse backgrounds and that their skills are developed through their involvement • Development of 'the Guide' as an information and referral tool for the sector • Six young people were awarded and recognised as part of the Recognition and Rewards program • The Council's KAOS Committee was nominated and awarded for their contributions to the municipality through the Office for Youth FReeZA awards • A Youth Services Facebook trial is currently underway to investigate the use of online technologies to support service delivery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Services Youth Counsellor has delivered a total of four Youth Mental Health First Aid programs. • A Youth Forum was held at Laverton P-12 College. • The Inaugural Laverton Youth Art Prize was established. • Both Youth Voice Committee and KAOS (Music Events Youth Committee) have participated in Social Media training and induction programs for new members. • 25 young people were presented with Reward and Recognition Awards as part of National Youth Week 2011 celebrations. These young people were acknowledged through local news articles and Youth Services Facebook. • Hobsons Bay Youth Services Facebook currently has 475 fans (June 2011). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implemented the "Beyond that's so Gay" worker training • The PROUD program has been redesigned to operate within a youth participation framework. • All youth participation groups include a range of young people from diverse backgrounds. • Three Youth Mental Health First Aid programs have been run throughout this financial year. • Two Pride and Prejudice train the trainer programs have been delivered for teachers and student welfare workers. • E-bulletins have evolved from being delivered six times a year to being delivered on a fortnightly basis to schools and agencies working with schools, providing relevant information and resources. • The E-newsletter for young people and their families has also increased its delivery from four term newsletters to every two weeks. • Consultation took place with young people during Youth Week at the Newport Skate Park to determine what social media techniques the library could use. This has resulted in a dedicated staff member to develop and monitor social media for young people on the new library website 	

bodies of the needs of young people in Hobsons Bay.

- Provide a clearinghouse of information to youth services in the municipality to support local service planning and skill development opportunities.
- Recognise and promote the capacity of young people in the community.
- Ensure that communication strategies are relevant and effective tools to engage with young people.

Actions That Could Be Further Explored and/or That Are Still Relevant

- Actively participate on the Youth Partnership Working Party
- Redevelop the Youth Voice Committee within a youth participation framework
- Deliver professional development training for workers/teachers as well as Council staff
- Deliver the reward and recognition program as part of Youth Week "25 most inspirational young people in Hobsons Bay"

<p>Goal 2 Spaces and Places:</p> <p>Hobsons Bay City Council acknowledges that young people interact within the community in a range of diverse and culturally specific ways that are relevant to their life stage.</p> <p>Like other age groups, young people use public space and community facilities to meet with friends and socialise. However, unlike other age groups, public perception of young people's usage of public space is often considered problematic or negative. While there is provision for recreational/sporting pursuits in public spaces (e.g. football, skate parks) in Hobsons Bay, the Council has a pivotal role in engaging with young people in urban design frameworks and facility planning throughout the municipality.</p> <p>Under this goal, the Council and its partner organisations agreed to work towards three objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a planning framework that actively involves and encourages the input of young people as key stakeholders in urban design; • Provide locations to deliver services that are accessible and responsive to the needs of young people; • Advocate for a transport system that is flexible, accessible and responsive to the needs of young people. 	<p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three young people are participating in the steering committee for the development of the Newport Youth, Library and Seniors' facility. • Streetsmart youth arts group exhibited in the Council foyer during Art in Public Places • A range of activities during school holiday period were undertaken in the libraries for young people aged 12 to 18 years • A new drop in centre was established in Altona Meadows 	<p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people were consulted with as part of the Play Space Strategy • Young people have participated in the community consultation regarding review of Councils skate park facilities. • The PROUD program participated in Council's Midsumma activities • Council supported the delivery of 3 professional development workshops with a focus on addressing homophobia in schools. • During 2010 the neighbourhood houses offered 46 different programs for young people. 	<p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people were consulted for the development of the Sport and Recreation Strategy. • A mobile arts program has been developed – Craft a Noons and has been delivered in parks, libraries and community centres across Hobsons Bay • Venue sponsorship was provided to Warchild music concert benefit created by students from Williamstown High School • Pixel8, Airtime, and the Woods Street Arts Space have been promoted through youth networks
<p>Actions That Could Be Further Explored and/or That Are Still Relevant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope the possibility of a mobile service to deliver services to young people in public spaces / schools • Explore possibilities to increase opportunities for young people within Neighbourhood Houses • Consult with young people in the development of the Environment Strategy • Continue to actively involve and encourage input from young people in the arts 			

<p>Goal 3 Connection and Participation:</p> <p>Hobsons Bay City Council acknowledges that a sense of belonging and connection to community (e.g. peers, neighbourhood, and family) is vital for young people's resilience, self-esteem and potential to develop life skills.</p> <p>Meaningful opportunities to participate in community life enhances young people's civic responsibility, life skills and ability to compete in the job market. One in five young people aged between 18 – 25 years of age living in Hobsons Bay volunteers and almost 30 per cent were members of an organised group or decision making committee. In light of this, the Council will work to enhance the current structures that provide positive connections for young people in the municipality and promote access points for young people to 'be heard'.</p> <p>Under this goal, the Council and its partner organisations agreed to work towards two objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate and support opportunities that acknowledge and reflect the diversity of young people within our municipality. • Facilitate processes and projects that provide community engagement, youth participation, leadership and brokerage opportunities. 	<p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council delivered 15 activities and events for young people in Hobsons Bay as part of National Youth Week including the Kool Schools program • The Council continued to support young people's sexual diversity through the implementation of PROUD activities • The Council delivered two skill development program for young people with disabilities • Grants for youth driven projects in Laverton were provided through Laverton Youth Foundations 	<p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A suite of support to culture & arts programs included: Lost In Transit is underway; St Martins Youth Theatre is running classes at The Substation; the Council supported Sistema/Lavertunes at Laverton P-12 through funding (a music and performance program). • Council sponsored a state wide conference on International Students and the role of local governments in this area. • Libraries, Arts and Culture and Recreation partnered with Youth Services to deliver 12 events to celebrate and acknowledge local young people throughout National Youth Week 2011. • Two Life Skills Programs were delivered to young people with disabilities The first program provided basic First Aid Training and the second a photography program which were exhibited during National Youth Week 2011. • Youth Forum took place in August 2011 which included 60 students from across Hobsons Bay. The information been incorporated in Youth Services Business Plan • Young people have been consulted or engaged in decision making with the following 4 Council departments: Youth Services, Recreation and Arts and Culture and Libraries. 	<p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application for funding through the Office for Youth was successful for National Youth Week. Youth Voice developed and delivered three events as part of Youth Week • A young person has been nominated and accepted to be on the Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Intersex Queer (GLBTIQ) Advisory Committee • A Youth Participation Group has been established to deliver culturally appropriate events for GLBTIQ young people.
<p>Actions That Could Be Further Explored and/or That Are Still Relevant</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate the New and Emerging Leadership program • Support artists through rotations of Airtime Flag Project, funding workshop programs and supporting outcomes and launches 			

<p>Goal 4 Transitions: Learning and Working:</p> <p>Hobsons Bay City Council acknowledges that the period between adolescence and adulthood involves a series of unique, complex and sometimes challenging transitions.</p> <p>Local data indicates that the top three counselling issues for young people in Hobsons Bay included family conflict, mental health issues and bullying. In addition, statistics show that Hobsons Bay's school retention rates are lower and unemployment rates are higher than the Melbourne Statistical Division.</p> <p>As the largest employer of local residents and a provider of youth services, the Council is in a good position to actively enhance service provision to young people as well as support the education, training and employment needs of young people in the municipality.</p> <p>Under this goal, the Council has agreed to work towards three objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and strengthen support during psychological and social transitions of young people, generally and at critical times. • Support and advocate for workplace programs and employment within the Council and through the local community. • Support and advocate for appropriate educational opportunities and resources that are locally and culturally relevant to the needs of students. 	<p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melbourne City Mission Job Service is currently delivering support from Laverton three days a week to young people seeking employment • The Libraries have established the online tutoring program 'Your Tutor', which is currently averaging more than 50 enquiries per month • School Focused Youth Services provided brokerage funding to 11 schools and community agencies across Hobsons Bay and Wyndham to assist in meeting the needs of vulnerable young people • A working relationship was established with NMIT to deliver an accredited retail training program from Seabrook Community Centre 	<p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Services have participated in a wide range of transition programs for Grade 6 students entering into secondary schools. • Following initial discussions with parents, Youth Services and Social Planning & Development will contract a consultant to research existing models and make recommendations for exiting strategies for HB young adults (25 years of age) with a disability. Funding has been made available in 2011/12 budget. • Multi-Intervention Response Team (MIRT) school model has been developed and is now operational. The MIRT involves a range of services to support highly vulnerable students at risk of disengaging from school. • The HBCC Youth Employment Research Paper has been completed with Council committing to supporting employment programs for young people and offering a minimum of four apprenticeships/traineeships across Council. This will be lead by the Human Resources Department. • Youth Services currently supported 2 x 3rd year youth work students from VU; 2 x Masters in psych students and one VET Certificate IV events management student. 	<p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Services have participated in a wide range of transition programs for Grade six students entering into secondary schools. • Four work placements have been identified though the SEED Project to commence in the new financial year. • Youth Services supported two third year youth work students and three counselling student placements.
<p>Actions That Could Be Further Explored and/or That Are Still Relevant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement an existing program for young adults with a disability transitioning out of Youth Services. • Explore and develop recommendations for traineeships/apprenticeships across Council departments. • Provide workforce participation opportunities for tertiary students in Youth Services. 			

Goal 5 Health and Well-Being:	Achievements	Achievements	Achievements
<p>Hobsons Bay City Council acknowledges that in order for young people to reach their full potential, they require access to appropriate health and well being services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council, in partnership with headspace delivered mental health awareness raising workshops in schools across Hobsons Bay • The Council delivered four information sessions were delivered for parents, teachers and workers in Hobsons Bay • The Council delivered a number of information sessions in schools based on a variety of topics including stress management and career pathways. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Youth Suicide Parent Workshop was held at Altona Meadows Library. • Four parenting seminars have been delivered. Attendance has increased significantly following a robust consultation and review with parents. 120 parents attended the last parent seminar with Andrew Fuller as the guest speaker. • The Youth Mentoring program has been reviewed in light over the oversubscription to the program. Recommendations to restructure & extend the program will begin July 1st 2011. • A Youth Circus program was delivered during school holiday program with Westside Circus. • Youth Arts programs have included: Airtime, Street SmART fundraising Auction, Doormats of Laverton. • The Lohse Woods Arts Program is being developed to commence in March 2011 with the StreetsmART (youth arts project) coordinating a community arts project with local traders. A visual arts/sculpture project is also being developed which will engage with students at the Laverton P-12 college. This will culminate in community multicultural celebrations in April and November 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four parenting seminars were delivered which included guest speakers Andrew Fuller and Susan McLean. Further development work will occur with parents regarding the next guest speakers. • Eighteen Support programs were delivered across Hobsons Bay secondary schools, libraries and community settings. • Four skate park events were run with an average attendance of 60 people • Two successful events were developed and held by the PROUD group for GLBTIQ young people. Firstly a Masquerade Dance and secondly the Midsumma Pamper Day, which incorporated a range of health and well being mini workshops Pixel8 was successfully held with over 100 entries. The winners were announced on the 25th May 2012 and the images have been used for the Airtime flags exhibition in Altona Meadows. • Lavertunes, now renamed Crashendo, is now established and currently engages 30 Primary students from Laverton P-12 College in orchestral training. • The Laverton Youth Art Prize now renamed Hobsons Bay Youth Art Prize has been integrated into the annual Youth Week celebrations. The event was highly successful with 45 entries from emerging young artists. • The delivery of the Laverton Artsplan continues to support young people through Streetsmart who are delivering programs at the newly established Woods Street Arts Space. • Rainbow families' packs with recommended books for same sex families have been purchased for the libraries and are currently being catalogued.
<p>Local data indicates that mental health disorders rate the third highest burden of disease for Hobsons Bay residents. As such, the provision and effective planning for the growing health needs of young people requires careful attention. Through provision of services, the Council will ensure that it remains informed of the issues affecting young people in the municipality, and that it supports the development and implementation of programs and initiatives needed to address health and wellbeing issues of concern to young people.</p>			
<p>Under this goal, the Council has agreed to work towards three objectives:</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide equitable access to appropriate and responsive services that support the needs of young people and where appropriate, their families • Identify and promote young people's self protective behaviours through skill development, education and environments that support safe 'risk taking' opportunities • Support and promote healthy choices and behaviours through initiatives and activities and • Support, embrace and celebrate the diversity of young people through the provision of recreational and arts initiatives 			

that are culturally relevant to them

Actions That Could Be Further Explored and/or That Are Still Relevant

- Provide support to young people who cannot access youth counselling
- Implement the Sports without Borders project targeting newly arrived refugee and migrant young people
- Develop and extend the Pixel 8 Photographic Program to include photographic workshops in schools
- Extend the mentoring program to include volunteers
- Investigate a program to offer influenza immunisation to VCE students attending Hobsons Bay Schools